

THE LONDON REVIEW

AND WEEKLY JOURNAL

Of Politics, Literature, Art, & Society.

No. 44.—VOL. II.]

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1861.

[WITH SUPPLEMENT, { PRICE 6d.
Unstamped.

THE MEETING OF THE REICHSRATH.

THIS age is prolific of great events. When history comes to gather them up it will record that our time was one of the leading epochs of the world. To these astonishing occurrences this week has made a contribution vast enough to startle us, had not familiarity already wound us up to the pitch of the *Nil admirari*. Civil war in the most wonderful republic known to mankind, and the opening of a Constitutional Parliament in the ancient stronghold of despotism, are sufficient by themselves to mark out a great era, full of change and reconstruction for the present and of boundless consequences for the future.

Constitutional life has begun in Austria. The days of the Holy Alliance, of Divine right, of government founded solely on the will of the Sovereign, of the doctrine that the people are born only to obey, have ended for her as they did for England in the seventeenth century. She has passed from the class of absolute to that of limited monarchies, from the form of government most alien from that of England, to one in a great degree identical with it. She has adopted the model of the British Constitution: the Legislative Power and the control of the Executive will, as with us, be shared by the Sovereign and two Houses of Parliament. Even if Austria were situated in a distant hemisphere, Englishmen would look with pride and gratification on so signal a tribute of admiration paid to the excellence of institutions which the wisdom and courage of our forefathers during long ages have so happily transmitted to us. It is one motive more for cherishing, in spite of its faults, the noble Constitution we possess, that foreigners starting from despotism, with a clear stage before them, can find no better model to copy. But there are yet stronger reasons that excite our sympathy with Austria. We have found it hard to retain our old friendly feelings of alliance towards Hapsburgs, trampling out national life over Italy, stifling every movement of self-government at home, in the grasp of a callous bureaucracy, and surrendering the liberties of their country to an anti-national and ultramontane priesthood. We could not go along with these things; they were repulsive to all our best feelings. But the bands are now broken and the prisoner is free. The Emperor has called up the people to share his power. He has given them institutions which we, who are familiar with their working, know will make ere long the Austrian House of Commons the strongest power in the State; and a real House of Commons in any country must be the friend of England. It cannot be anything else. The true interests of the people in every nation are with those of England; for free-trade, peace, and progress are everywhere the first blessings of the people. If Austria has the political skill and the firmness to make her own of the unfailing instrument of self-government now placed in her hands, and we are confident that she has, she will become a natural and necessary ally such as England as yet has never had on the continent.

Most fortunately, in taking England for his model, the Emperor found the requisite materials already existing in his country; without them a reconstruction of the Austrian state after the English type would have been impossible. No other European state possesses them. The grand difficulty in reproducing elsewhere the British Constitution is not, as most persons suppose, to create a House of Commons, but to find a House of Lords. We say "find" purposely, for the elements of a second chamber must pre-exist; they cannot be extemporized.

A House of Representatives directly emanating from the people, and wielding the powers of the people, can start into vitality at once. It exercises power and authority on the very first day of its existence; but an upper or second house, which shall be strong enough to check and balance the popular assembly when passion and excitement render it reckless and improvident, is an extremely difficult institution to procure. We have found it so in our colonies; in none can we be said to have been successful in establishing a really strong upper council; the connection with the mother country and the weight of the empire are the real checks on the popular caprice. Austria is truly fortunate in having an aristocracy, powerful from inherent force, from long traditions of glory, from great wealth, and popular respect. These are the precise materials for constituting a strong and effective second chamber. These elements were swept away in France by the first Revolution, and the consequence has been that parliamentary institutions have never been able to obtain firm hold of that country. There has been nothing capable of opposing the temporary will of the people; and the nation has since oscillated between republicanism and despotism. The Austrian aristocracy, if guided by right feeling and judgment, are the noblest guarantee for the permanency of an Austrian parliament and of the freedom of the people. These qualities are not, possibly, as highly developed as we could wish, though far more so, we know, than is generally believed in England,—but is it reasonable to expect the full strength of manhood from a boy?

The Upper House of the Reichsrath is composed of the princes of the blood, seventeen spiritual peers, fifty-five hereditary, and thirty-nine life peers. The admixture of life peerages is a regrettable measure. They are a weak institution; apparently popular, but in reality injurious to the best interests of the state. They possess no intrinsic strength; they are rarely independent; and, when controlling for a time popular excitement or delusion, their interference invariably provokes far sharper impatience and resentment than that of hereditary peers. The Commons inevitably regard them as their equals; and men are invariably more jealous of being thwarted by their equals than by their superiors. The infusion of this element into the Upper House may, however, be considered as a proof of the Emperor's desire to grant every reasonable concession. We think it mistaken; but we respect the motive. We shall watch no other part of the new political machinery with so much anxiety as this Upper House; for its functions are more delicate and more critical than those of either the Crown or the Representatives. Its duty is not to govern; but government without it in a Parliamentary form would soon become impracticable. Athens was lost by the failure of its council in regulating the Demos; Rome bowed its head to despotism, when its senate ceased to command respect. An unchecked Convention, and a single National Assembly enabled the empire to rear its head twice in France; whilst the Government, by two Houses, had proved the most enduring foundation for liberty and greatness in England. May Austria's fortune be like hers; and for that, moderation and sympathy with the people in the Upper House are indispensable.

The Lower House of Representatives is formed under a peculiar principle. Strangely enough the only analogy to be found for it is the Senate or Upper House of the United States; and similar causes have been at work in both cases. Like the United States in some measure, Austria is composed of parts which are separate states rather than countries. The distribution of seats by electoral districts,



according to population, would have jarred with the quasi-national feelings of each province; they would have felt themselves swamped in a jumble of heterogeneous elements; the centrifugal forces would have acquired undue strength, and might have prevented the working of the machine. To avoid this danger, to gratify the local feelings of nationality by a more distinct and visible grouping of their separate members, and to give the appearance of a more careful regard to provincial interests, the members of the Austrian House of Commons are chosen by the states or local parliaments of each province. At a future day, when the several parts of the empire have worked together as a whole for some time, this arrangement will probably be superseded; in the mean time it seems better suited to the undeveloped political condition of many portions of the Austrian monarchy. If ever the Lower House ceases to desire earnestly direct election, it cannot be doubted that it will be able to effect the change without difficulty.

The privileges accorded to the Reichsrath are all that can be reasonably desired; all, we venture to say, that it is useful for them to possess at the first start. A joint share in all legislation, supreme control over the finances of the State, and the regulation of the indirect expenditure, both as to amount and distribution, will enable the Austrian people to govern themselves as truly as the English. The Constitution does not indeed provide that the Lower House shall have a voice in directing the foreign policy of the country, but neither does the British Constitution. There is no law which can compel a Minister of the Crown to answer a question in the House of Commons, or to give an account of the despatches he may have written. The great influence of that House over the Government of England rests on mere usage and practice; it has no other foundation than this, that a Minister who did not choose to answer, would lose the confidence of the House, and would be unable to carry the necessary measures of Government through it. This is found by experience to be an ample security; and it rests with the Austrians themselves to obtain, by similar means, the same consideration and authority from the Austrian Cabinet.

TRADE AND THE BUDGET.

THE announced surplus of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is generally accepted. In the House and outside of the House it is equally stated that it is impossible to refute his anticipations, and, therefore, the only question remaining is how to dispose of the assumed surplus. That is the issue the House of Commons is to try. We will not dispute with him the probable future, but the recent official publication of the trade accounts for the first quarter of the year enables us to lay before our readers some facts which confirm what we stated a fortnight ago, and which cannot fail to have an important influence on the revenue before the end of the year, and ought now to be taken into serious consideration.

The first fact is, that all the articles subject to customs duties entered for consumption in the three months of 1861, are less in quantity than in the corresponding three months of 1860, except corn, currants, hops, sugar, molasses, and wine. Thus cocoa has fallen off 1·8 per cent., coffee 3·5 per cent., spirits 7 per cent., tea 1·7 per cent., timber and wood 54 per cent., and tobacco 3 per cent. On the contrary, wheat has increased fivefold, other corn 30 per cent., flour nearly fivefold, and Indian corn meal threefold, hops nearly seventyfold, sugar 0·7 per cent., and wine 84 per cent. None of these, except sugar and wine, yield largely to the revenue, and the increase in the consumption of sugar is very small compared to 1859. There is, in fact, on the whole, a falling off of 1·7 per cent. In molasses, which is much used for distillation, there is an increase of nearly 82 per cent. over last year, and upwards of 3 per cent. over 1859. The increase in the wine taken for consumption is only an increase in comparison to the quantity entered last year, when the subject was much agitated, and the quantity then entered barely exceeded the quantity entered in 1859. On the whole there is a considerable diminution of articles liable to duty entered for consumption in the first three months of the present year.

The next fact is a decline in the value of the imports, if we exclude corn. In two months the total value was, in 1860, £15,871,469, and in 1861, £18,246,537; but in the latter the value of the corn and flour imported was £6,172,652 against £1,709,371 in the former, so that the value of the other imports was £14,162,098 last year, against £13,783,256 in the present year. In conjunction with this it must be observed that of the imports, including raw materials, all of which are included in the value, unusual quantities have been re-exported. The re-exports of cocoa, coffee, cotton, hides, raw silk, sugar, tea, and wool are all in excess of last year. Our continental neighbours have taken more, and have left less of these articles here for our own use.

Again, the declared value of the exports of our own produce and manufactures has fallen off in three months £2,810,000, or 9 per cent. Should the same proportion be continued to the end of the year, the exports will have declined upwards of £11,000,000. The shipping engaged in the home trade has rather declined than increased, and the tonnage in the foreign trade has barely increased. Such a general decline, as these tables shew, will seriously affect the income of the whole people, and leave them with less power and much less goodwill to bear taxation.

More than half the decline in our export trade is due to America, and nearly the other half to India. To France, Naples, Portugal, China, &c., our trade has increased; but the favourable influence of the political events which promoted it, except the treaty, is most probably exhausted. At the same time the unfavourable influence of such events—especially in America, and probably in Europe—is only commencing, and we cannot hope, from the condition of India, for any immediate recovery of our large trade to that country. While the actual decline of trade, both import and export, except the import of corn, is considerable and general in the first quarter of the year, the prospect for the rest of the year is by no means assuring, and we cannot with safety count on a revenue from trade equal to that of last year. Then the Chancellor's estimate of customs duty was saved from being erroneous to the extent of a million by the disastrous season. The unexpected produce of what was meant to be only a nominal tax on food redeemed his calculations from a grievous error; but the full effect of that season on the consuming and tax-paying power of the people is not yet all realised.

On Monday the Chancellor adverted, as we did a fortnight ago, to the reduction of the national income from this cause, and endeavoured to assure the House by explaining that, the assessment for the income-tax under Schedule D being formed by a comparison of three years, would this year take in both the flourishing years 1858-9 and 1859-60, and probably be greater than the sum on which the tax was assessed last year. But the amount of income returned is at the option of the tax-payers, and last year they were in high and hopeful spirits, from the briskness of trade, from great and growing prosperity, and from the large expenditure of Government on account of war defrayed partly by loans in the years now to be eliminated from the assessment. In every year referred to, as the Chancellor well knows, capital was turned into income; this year there will be only a diminished income. The returns, too, will be influenced very much by gloomy prospects and dreary feelings of checked prosperity. They will be less an exact representation of gains than of those feelings of loss and dismay which pervade alike farmers and traders. Desponding and losing men will cut down the returns of the amounts on which they are to be assessed to the uttermost, and will disappoint both the Chairman of the Inland Revenue Board and the Chancellor.

With a very doubtful future before us, and with a settled determination on both sides of the House to reduce taxation according to the Chancellor's calculated surplus, nothing remains for careful politicians but to press for a reduction in the expenditure for the year to the greatest possible amount, abating not one farthing from the sums appropriated to the national defence—though the increase of our import and export trade with France is favourable to the continuance of peace—every farthing which can by any possibility be spared from the civil and miscellaneous expenditure not yet voted ought to be saved.

Were we now seeking to raise objections to Mr. Gladstone's financial plan we might remind him that the penny taxes he laid on dock-orders, dock-warrants, writs of entry, &c., in spite of the remonstrances of the mercantile community, and in direct opposition to the principles he professes, have turned out such complete failures that many of his warmest admirers and most zealous advocates were members of the deputation which recently waited on him to remonstrate against them.

Every merchant, every banker, as well as every well-ordered family, keeps a minute account of income and expenditure; and we have known all the clerks of a great banking-house kept at double work for three days to find out the error, in a balance of millions, of a few pence. Pounds and shillings take care of themselves; what becomes of the pence is unaccountable. Many are lost under the mystifying term "sundries." To keep an account of them costs more trouble than to keep an account of the pounds; and though care be taken to check every payment, in the pressure of business, irretrievable arrears will arise, Mr. Gladstone's penny taxes make it necessary for porters, carmen, and junior clerks to have in their pockets the means of meeting continually recurring demands.

Besides that, the complication of accounts multiplies entries and figures; the necessity of trusting persons of those classes with sums of which it is next to impossible to require an exact account, puts a dangerous temptation in their way. Were a revision of the Budget now possible, we should think he might find it not derogatory to his high position to withdraw these petty taxes which annoy and affront the merchant, and are not unlikely to have even a worse effect on those in his employ.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN, driven into a logical dilemma by the assault upon and surrender of Fort Sumpter, has done no more than his duty in declaring war against the seven States that originally seceded from the Union, and in calling out the Volunteers and the Militia to aid the Federal Government in the assertion of its authority, and the restitution of its rights, its privileges, and its property. But as the President of the United States has neither a large fleet nor a large army—as he has no power to compel the obedience of any State that refuses to contribute its quota of soldiers on his demand—and as the cause of the South has many ardent friends in the North and West, and even in the great State of New York itself, he has done equally well, if not better, in submitting the whole case to the decision of the people, to assemble by their representatives on the 4th of July next. In such a perilous crisis as that through which the United States are now passing, the people, and not the President, must be the ultimate judge and arbiter. Whatever the differences between North and South may have been at the commencement, the case is no longer one of mere treason or disloyalty. It has long ago passed that stage, and grown to the large dimensions of a veritable Revolution. President Davis stands on the same ground as Washington, Napoleon III., the King of Italy, or any other potentate who has converted a theory into a fact, and has placed himself at the head of a people as the exponent of their wishes, and the instrument of their policy.

Although there is much bluster in the North, and much solid determination in the South—a gathering of armed men, and loud and angry ebullitions of passion and vindictiveness in every part of the country, all of which are perfectly natural and intelligible—it is evident to unimpassioned bystanders and sincere well-wishers to both parties, such as we are in England, that the cause of the South is destined to succeed, and that the restoration of the Union is impossible. The great State of Virginia has finally cast in her lot with the Slaveholding Confederacy; and all the other States, where black men and women are considered as chattels, including North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Arkansas, if not Maryland and Delaware, will inevitably follow her example. Such a Confederacy cannot be conquered. President Lincoln, in the attempt to uphold an authority that no longer exists, may carry the war into Texas or Louisiana; and President Davis may attempt the capture of Washington by a *coup de main*. The waters of strife may be poured out in a deluge of devastation, of which the evil effects may eat into the very heart of American property and liberty, and retard the progress of the country for a century. A thousand other untoward contingencies may arise to set at nought the calculations of the prudent or the aspirations of the wise; but whatever may happen, remotely or immediately, it is clear that the Union is as dead as the Heptarchy. And were it possible for Mr. Lincoln to invade, conquer, and re-annex the seceders, we may well ask, how long would the patched up Union subsist? and at what a perilous cost—that of a standing army (fatal to all republics)—would the incohesive fabric be maintained?

We have no sympathy for the South. We think the original secession was unwise if not wicked. We detest and abhor its institution of slavery, and are, moreover, of opinion that if it successfully maintains its position against the North, it will fall into the rear as a nation and a community. But holding these opinions, we are nevertheless compelled to admit that the South is in earnest, that its leaders act from a deep-seated conviction; that the influence of climate as well as the institution of slavery renders it, *de facto*, as different a people from those of the North as the Italian or Greek is from the Englishman or the Dutchman; and that if it wishes to secede from union with an uncongenial mate, it has as great a right to do so as Washington had to throw off his allegiance to the British crown; and that the North, if it attempt coercion, will act in a spirit inconsistent with that on which its own liberties were founded, and perhaps prepare the way for the extinction of democracy as the governing power of the New World. We are also of opinion that the North in its conflict with the South has all along acted the part of a hypocrite and a false pretender. It has feigned a sympathy with the negro which it never felt. It has made slavery the pretext of a purpose that it durst not avow. It has profited by the institution while abusing it; and by its stupid and selfish protective system has taxed the South to an enormous extent, without conferring upon it a single advantage in return.

Were the North as cautious and wise in the emergency as the South has been hot-headed and foolish, it would act the part of any honest good man, in private life, whose bad wife had run away from him. It would acquiesce in the separation as the best thing that could happen to both, and would at least wait until the runaway showed signs of contrition, and expressed a desire to renew the connection, before it took any steps to bring back into its bosom a partner from whose partnership it received nothing but disgrace and misery. If the North hate slavery half as much as the Republican party have asserted, it ought rather to rejoice than lament that, by the voluntary act of the seceders, it is free for ever from the guilt of its

continuance, that its hands are pure of the unholy thing, and that within its borders the original Declaration of American Independence has at last become a sublime truth, instead of the mockery which negro slavery had made it.

The South may invade and capture Washington. The North may invade, but it cannot ultimately subdue the South. Though it have a few ships, much money, and large numbers of volunteers, the North is only strong upon its own ground. It will find it difficult to transport a large invading force by sea into the enemy's territory; and an overland march through the countries that lie between Washington and Charleston, may well make the bravest and most skilful of commanders pause ere he undertake a work of such extreme peril and such doubtful issue. The attack upon a Massachusetts regiment by a brutal mob at Baltimore, within an hour's railway ride of Washington, is a sample of what the Northern troops will have to encounter, if they cross the Border lines that separate the lands of the Slave from the lands of the Free. And what should not be lost sight of, the South, though comparatively poor in money, is richer than the North in energy, fanaticism, and unity of purpose. All the white men, and possibly large numbers of the blacks, would start up in every town, village, plantation, and swamp, and become soldiers to repel the Northern legions. The very women would wield the rifle or the revolver against a foe invading them on their own soil;—and where, we may well ask, would be the commissariat? The first great victory gained by President Davis would not only make him the idol of his countrymen, but inspire every soldier under his command with that reinvigorated heroism, which transformed the ragged, wretched, half-starved, and ill-armed soldiers of the first French Republic into heroes, who became the terror of the world, the conquerors of the legions of combined Europe, and the pride and glory of their countrymen.

The North is well rid of the South, if it did but know its own good fortune. The separation, if it can be effected without further bloodshed, is, under all the circumstances, the best thing that could have happened. The world is quite wide enough for both parties to live and thrive. Were the separation in itself undesirable it would be infinitely preferable to the struggle to prevent it. Had it not come now it would inevitably have taken place a few years hence. The late United States were geographically too scattered and unwieldy, too much divided in feeling, education, character, interest, and climate, to hold together like the compact monarchies of the old world. The founders of American liberty offered to the world a great and noble example. It remains to their successors in the present day, if they be worthy of the liberty which Jefferson imagined and which Washington conquered, to give an example equally brilliant and much more needed to the older civilization of Europe. Let North and South shake hands and part before the further effusion of blood removes the case out of the province of reason into that of passion. That is the example which they owe to the nations, and it would be the noblest example that history has yet recorded. Is there sufficient wisdom in America to allow the world to hope for it? We fear not, for reason has rarely yet ruled mankind in great emergencies, and we dare hardly hope that the present crisis will afford an instance of her being allowed to exercise her desired influence.

SPAIN AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

SPAIN has not been slow to take advantage of the disunion of the States of North America. It is now about six years since a half-acknowledged filibustering emissary of the then United Republic—a gentleman who had sold whisky in Texas, and had tried his hand at some half-dozen other avocations in as many states, thus earning his title of *General*—was on the point of completing a treaty, giving up to the Americans the Bay of Samana, one of the finest harbours of Santo Domingo. Foiled in this attempt, which could only have resulted in the ultimate annexation of the whole island to the group of slave States, the General, we believe, was deputed to exercise his talent for treaty-making in some other direction. At all events, thanks to the British Consul of those days, he retired in dudgeon, and no more was heard of the affair. It is now clear that our friends in Cuba and Puerto Rico have not been more blind than their neighbours to the advantage of having a stronger and larger interest in the West Indies, and see no reason why this ripe and large plum should not drop into their mouth.

Santo Domingo is very little known, and its value and importance have long been overlooked in England. In point of size it is scarcely inferior to Cuba, in fertility it is perhaps equal, and there is good reason to believe that its climate is decidedly more healthy. It has a central and very lofty chain of mountains, which, of course, ensure a certain variety of climate not possessed by Cuba, and from these mountains proceed several rivers. At the time of its first discovery it yielded much gold, and its relative value may be judged of by the style of the city and towns built by the Spaniards. These are not inferior in any respect to the finest of those either in the West India islands or on the mainland of South America. The cathedral and churches of the capital rival in construction and style those of

the best towns on the coast of Spain, and the houses are large and noble, though now almost uninhabited.

Colonised partly by France and partly by Spain, the island is curiously inhabited by two populations, totally distinct and jealous enough of each other. Language, appearance, manner, and government are all different. The Haytians, on the western side, are chiefly negroes, and very dark. They speak French, and their government has always borne rather a French stamp, being absolute and tyrannical when republican, and somewhat republican even when presided over by an Imperial tyrant. The Dominicans, on the other hand, are a mixture of Spanish with both Indian and negro blood; this being evident in their physiognomy, their indolent manner, and the utter carelessness and indifference to the course of events that has generally characterised them, alternated by outbreaks of something like national enthusiasm. Like their brethren on the west side, they threw off the European yoke when there was no longer European strength to keep it in its place, and they have since governed themselves, if such an expression can properly be used in their case. The so-called government has been carried on generally in the most slipshod manner, with a little occasional murder and revolution in the towns, but without the small sprinkling of inhabitants in the interior knowing or caring much about the changes that have taken place.

The population of the part of the Dominican republic south of the mountains, which, we are told, has lately been anxious for annexation to Spain, is so utterly without will or power that the very idea of self-action on their part is almost ridiculous. The city itself sits silent and dead in the tropical garden surrounding it. The grass grows high in the streets and in the open courts, the latter being, indeed, half-filled with the fallen ruins of old religious houses, churches, and public buildings. So completely is this the case that the horses feed in these places as in fields, and even in a street leading through one of the gates to the open country the pavement, if there ever was any, is too thickly grown over to be visible.

While this is the state of the capital, the whole of the country in the interior towards the mountains is almost in a state of nature. It has once been cultivated, as may be seen by the long straight rows of trees, originally planted to serve as hedges, and the regular growth of the cacao, or chocolate tree, and the coffee tree. But although the chocolate nut and the coffee berry still ripen, there is no one to take them to a market; and in their isolated huts live a few half-savage owners of the land, who consume what they want and allow the rest to rot.

Contemptible and useless as are the present inhabitants, they, for the most part, enjoy their liberty in the way most agreeable to themselves, but are utterly unable to resist the intrigues of a foreign power. The nearly successful attempt made by the States in 1855, if not checked, would have resulted by this time in a complete annexation, and slaves and slave-owners once introduced, the whole of the existing population would have been absorbed. We may not feel much sympathy with a people who could do so little for themselves, but we are bound to look a little further in this case, and consider the result if the proposed annexation to Spain should take place. It is but fair to assume that in making the present move France has not been altogether idle. She dearly loves, as we know, to sacrifice something for an idea. It would be so natural that, if Santo Domingo reverts to Spain, Hayti should long to feel the advantage of French superintendence;—the ties of language and ancient history may so conveniently be referred to, and the vanity of the poor Haytians would be so easily tickled, that we cannot imagine the ingenious machinery so successful in Savoy and Nice to fail in the negro republic.

But if Spain and France once obtain a hold of this magnificent island it will no longer be the unimportant place it has hitherto seemed. Large enough to contain the whole French navy, and perfectly safe in all weathers, the fine harbours of Santo Domingo would soon be occupied by some of the spare ships now shut up in Toulon and Brest, and France would obtain what she has long wanted, a *point d'appui* on the other side of the Atlantic, whence she might watch the goings on of all around, and be ready at any time to take advantage of circumstances, and would have ample ground for keeping a permanent fleet in American waters, ready, in case of need, to support her fisheries in Newfoundland.

Its immediate vicinity to Jamaica, and its commanding position in the Gulf of Mexico, render Santo Domingo, politically, of the highest importance, and nothing but the strictly neutral and harmless character of its governments is consistent with English interests in the West Indies. We sincerely trust that Lord John Russell has already taken care to intimate in the strongest manner, that these hitherto independent, though insignificant, populations of coloured races in the West Indies are to be protected, if necessary, by the strong arm. We know that they are not only unable to help themselves, but so ignorant and so weak that they may at any time be deceived to their own destruction. Now, therefore, without delay, when Spain only appears in the field, and before the problem becomes complicated, is the time to put a definite stop to all proposals of annexation.

The prospect of increased facility for carrying on the slave trade

will, doubtless, be an incentive to Spain to seek for, as it is to us an inducement to prevent this advance. Spain has committed herself to prevent this abominable traffic. She has accepted remuneration for the loss it was estimated to involve, and she now practically refuses to abide by her bargain. Is it to be thought of, that, while winking at the constant introduction of coloured people from Africa into Cuba, she should be allowed to occupy a second Cuba, and play over again in Santo Domingo the solemn farce by which the mother of her Queen and every official in Cuba, from the governor downwards, notoriously profits? There never can be wanting good reasons to object to the enslavement of a people, even when that people are too low in the scale of intelligence to see the inevitable result of their own folly.

DANGER IN THE EAST.

THE wisdom of antiquity asserts that no good ever comes of ill-gotten wealth; and that the avenging Nemesis never fails to strike in the third generation, even if her hand should have been stayed during the first and second. Ill won territory, and the spoliation of an innocent people, seem to be in the same condition, with regard to the inevitable punishment that follows wrong doing; and Poland, crushed for two generations, lifts up her head in the third, to trouble the repose of the living heirs of those who despoiled her in a bygone era. The sins of Catherine rise up in judgment at the council board of Alexander; and the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia partake as largely of his alarm as their grandfathers did of the plunder. Poland, in 1861, has as good a chance of re-establishment, as Italy had in 1858—59; and it would seem, from some ominous indications that are looming up in the East, that Alexander II., aware of the fact, meditates a new partition, to reimburse Russia for the loss of the old; and that one of the partners in the original iniquity sniffs the fresh quarry from afar, and seeks in Moldavia and Wallachia an equivalent for Galicia, as well as for Lombardy and Venetia. If it be nefarious and dangerous to destroy a Christian kingdom, they may think it both venal and safe to break up a Mahometan empire, and share it out amongst them.

The condition of Continental Europe is so multifariously wrong, that public attention in this country finds it difficult to fix itself upon every source of alarm and mischief that bubbles up from day to day, even were there no home politics to divide its interest. Not only Poland, but Italy, Hungary, and Schleswig-Holstein, are causes of perplexity and peril; any one of which, if this generation were as reckless as its predecessors, would have been sufficient to lead to a general war. Were Great Britain and France less strong, and less cordially united than they are, the catastrophe would even now be imminent; and if it be averted during the present year, the result will be due in a higher degree to their preponderance in the councils of Europe than to the wisdom or unselfishness of the more absolute sovereigns of other countries. The affairs of Italy and Hungary, and the formidable attitude assumed by the Polish nation, important as these events are, both in themselves and in their ulterior consequences, ought not to monopolise the attention of this country to such an extent as to make it blind to the dangers that beset the Turkish empire. Propped and re-propped; crumbling and tumbling, and hastening to decay; robbed by its own servants and officers, insulted by its foes, and still more grievously outraged by the advice and patronage of its friends and protectors, it is a constant source of peril to the peace of the world. Its weakness invites attack; the hopelessness of its renovation sharpens the avidity of its neighbours; its stagnant faith keeps it irremediably in the rear of the intelligence of the age; and it is as obviously in the wrong place in the political system of Europe as an empire of Chinese or Japanese would be, or a new swarm of Tartars from the interior of Asia.

The progress of public sympathy in Europe for the cause of the Poles will, sooner or later, prove too much for Russia. Hungary, though not yet lost to Austria, will, in due time, work out her independence; and it would seem as if Russia and Austria, knowing these things, had pre-determined to find equivalents for lost dominion and territory at the expense of the Sultan. That something of this kind, so long and so often planned, may be attempted this year is not improbable, and the idea may serve as an explanation of the uncontradicted statement in the two semi-official journals of Paris, the *Presse* and the *Pays*, that an army of 50,000 Russians has been concentrated on the Pruth and placed on a war footing, and that a large Austrian force, the number not stated, has been directed to the same region, to hold Moldavia and Wallachia, as France holds Rome. The reason given for this ominous movement is "the fermentation prevailing in European Turkey."

When we consider that the real cause of the late war in the Crimea was the vacillation of the British and French Governments, in not immediately notifying to the Emperor Nicholas that the passage of the Pruth by an invading army would be deemed a *casus belli* by both Powers, we see at once their duty and their policy at the present time. If the statement be true of this concentration upon the Pruth, either of a Russian or an Austrian army, a firm and immediate notification to both Powers from our own and the French

Government would in all probability prevent a war. Non-interference in the affairs of Italy, Hungary, and Poland is a very different matter from non-interference in an unprovoked assault upon the Turkish empire, with a view to its partition; and if ever there were a case when an immediate declaration of opinion on the part of the Powers that curbed the ambition of Russia before Sebastopol was imperatively called for it is now. The "sick man" will doubtless die at the season pre-ordained by an all-wise, over-ruling Providence; but though his death be but a question of time, there is no necessity why he should be either robbed or murdered. A year hence it may be too late to take action to prevent the catastrophe that may set all Europe in a blaze.

THE SHEFFIELD FOREIGN OFFICE.

IN spite of the theory of the Cabinet which represents the Home Department as the most important of the Secretaryships of State, there is no doubt that the practice of above a century has given the chief place in our regard to the Foreign Office, and it has been more than once filled by the man who has been notoriously the chief member of the Government. It was the place chosen by Lord Chatham in the Ministry of 1757; by Fox in that of 1806; and Canning for a moment thought of remaining in it, with all the power of Prime Minister, in 1827. Of late years many of the discussions respecting the relative merits of a Conservative or of a Liberal Government have turned upon the qualifications of the Foreign Secretary, one party urging that Lord Malmesbury inspired the different foreign governments with more confidence; the other that the possession of the Seals by Lord Clarendon or Lord John Russell was in itself an aid of no small importance to the cause of liberty and constitutional government. The fact of the claims of each party to general support being based on such different grounds might seem to render desirable the aid of a sort of spare horse to balance the claims of each by reinforcing each in its weakest points; which in the North should be desirous to check the progress of absolute principles as embodied in the policy of Russia; which in the South should seek to arrest the advance of revolution as personified in the aggrandizement of Victor Emmanuel. Such a common auxiliary the British public will no doubt be glad to hear exists in Mr. Isaac Ironside, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Sheffield, and it will be equally rejoiced to learn, that, as Mr. Ironside apparently owes his office to his own appointment, and retains his undiminished confidence in himself, he is not likely to vacate his important post in a hurry. The name Ironside is manifestly a *nom de guerre*; and at first we thought that it was derived partly from the trade of Sheffield in general; and that in part it contained an allusion to the shilling razors which are produced in such numbers in that celebrated market of hardware, where the sides are iron with a thin facing of steel, so that though they seem to be sharp for a day or two, the edge is in reality neither keen nor durable. But it has been suggested to us, with greater probability, that the name is derived from the stern troopers of Cromwell, who were at all times zealous in condemning all sins they had no mind to themselves, and whose spirit was manifestly the same with that which inspires the fulminations of the Chairman of the Sheffield Committee.

The interesting documents issued by that gentleman within the last fortnight, in which the style of an official despatch is curiously blended with that of the Communion Service, have already been widely circulated. And we need not remark on either the matter or the manner of these important papers, except to point out that, in the opinion of Mr. Ironside, in 1848-49 Lord Palmerston was the tool of Russia, and that now Lord Shaftesbury discharges similar functions. The word "tool," indeed, is not employed in Mr. Ironside's letter—doubtless lest it should appear to savour too strongly of the shop—but that is what he means when he accounts for Lord Palmerston's conduct to Hungary in 1848-49, because "it suited the purpose of Russia then to keep down Hungary by means of Austria;" and when he unlocks to Lord Shaftesbury the inmost secrets of his lordship's own heart and overwhelms him with the announcement of his discovery of them—that his lordship's object in reproaching the treatment of Captain Macdonald was to "prevent Prussia from resisting the universal aggressions of Russia."

The eye that discovered these secret objects in these otherwise natural-looking actions was undoubtedly, to use a Sheffield simile, as sharp as a needle. And it must be a great comfort to the Conservatives who are disinclined to trust Lord John's sagacity to be thus made aware of the existence

Of a sweet little cherub that sits up aloft,
To look after the deeds of poor Jack.

Indeed, so strong is the sympathy of the body represented by Mr. Ironside for Lord John, that it is only from a stern feeling of duty, mingled with a becoming sense of their own importance, that they denounce his lordship's *protégé*, Victor Emanuel, as the man "who removes his neighbour's landmark," lest, by keeping silence, they should become "his accomplices."

But Lord Shaftesbury meets with heavier castigation. His state-

ment that "nothing can be more inhospitable than the system of Prussian administration" is "a falsehood," and the object of that falsehood, "the aggrandisement of Russia," rouses "the indignation of the Committee," who pretty plainly hint that now, as in 1858, "he is dishonoured in the sight of God and man." We ourselves have been somewhat puzzled to know how this unpatriotic hypocrisy of which Lord Shaftesbury is accused is "an habitual breach of the tenth commandment." And, if it were not impossible to suspect theologians so learned of such a slip, we should have fancied they must have been in Byron's position, who asked—

"Which commandment is't they break,
I have forgot the number, and I think no man
Should rashly quote, for fear of a mistake."

But in this case, of course, no mistake is conceivable; and as his lordship meekly kisses the rod, and thanks his censor for his reproof, we will take it for granted that in his insincere "observations on the trumpery case of Captain Macdonald," as before, "in his invention of the Sepoy mutilations," he coveted something, though it is beyond our ingenuity to discover the object of his "awfully wicked" desires.

Mr. Ironside ends his admonition to Lord Shaftesbury with the Scriptural inquiry, "What will he do in the end thereof?" And this question is so pertinent to all practical business that we may be excused for addressing a somewhat similar one to himself and his committee. What does Mr. Ironside aim at as the end of his supervision of our Foreign Department, and of his castigation of our statesmen and legislators, whose views chance to be different from his own? We naturally wish to know who the committee, whose mouthpiece he is, are? since it is evident that the weight of any reproof must depend on the fact of the reprover standing higher in general estimation than the reprovéd. We are not ourselves in possession of sufficient information with respect to the composition of the Sheffield committee to be able to judge of the respect to which that body is entitled; but it is plain that Lord John Russell's recognition of Victor Emmanuel was endorsed by the Cabinet; and there can be just as little doubt that the opinion expressed by Lord Shaftesbury respecting the conduct of the Prussian officials to Captain Macdonald was quite in accordance with the sentiments entertained by his fellow peers. If, then, the "Foreign Affairs Committee" at Sheffield be so constituted that its members are superior in official experience and political knowledge to the Cabinet; in gravity, dignity, and correctness of taste and judgment to the House of Lords; the end which they doubtless have proposed to themselves, of turning our foreign policy into a wiser and purer direction for the future, will most deservedly be attained; and the whole kingdom will be too thankful for the additional wisdom and purity thus inspired into its councils to scrutinise too closely the means by which such advantages have been procured. But if the composition of the Sheffield committee when known should not lead to so favourable a comparison; or if a suspicion that it will not do so should lead them still to shroud themselves in obscurity behind the name of their chairman, the end which they will attain will not be that which they seem to have desired; but they will only have brought contempt on themselves as unauthorised and unjustified intruders into affairs above their comprehension, and still greater contempt on their chairman who has put himself forward as the tool of so presumptuous and ignorant a faction.

WEALTH NOT OMNIPOTENT.

WEALTH is not omnipotent in this country. It can buy houses, lands, luxuries, pleasures, all that can please the eye and gratify the palate, but it cannot purchase personal respect, nor can it win the approbation of the public unless its possessor can show he has qualities independent of his wealth which entitle him to the admiration and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

This is a fact which every day's experience confirms; and the latest illustration of its truth was the Marylebone election, and the position which Mr. Twelvetrees occupied on the day of polling.

Mr. Harvey Lewis sought for and won the seat of Marylebone because he is a man of talent, liberal principles, known character, and independent property; Sir Robert Carden, as a Conservative, canvassed for the support of the Conservatives; and Mr. Wingrove Cooke, as a gentleman of proved ability, an able writer, and a consistent politician, sought for the suffrages of the electors. All these were rightfully in their place when seeking the representation of a metropolitan borough. Their antecedents were such as to reflect honour upon them. But what right had Mr. Twelvetrees to stand by their side? Simply this—he was a destroyer of that noxious insect which in Latin is designated a "cimex," in Greek a "koris," and in English—a "bug." Such were his claims upon the Marylebone constituency—a misplaced ambition, and his entomological massacres!

At the close of the poll it was found that 5,269 electors had voted for Mr. Harvey Lewis, and for Mr. Twelvetrees—one!

Money is not omnipotent in England, although Mr. Twelvetrees is

the type of a class who seem to think otherwise, and upon whom this useful lesson we hope may not be thrown away.

There are in the midst of the English community many persons who, having become wealthy by undignified means, fancy that the wealth they have thus acquired dignifies them into superior beings!—that the gold they have so accumulated is a pedestal on which they can stand elevated above their fellow-men—that because they are richer they are therefore better than all less wealthy than themselves. They feel that a new power is placed within their grasp, and they delude themselves into the notion it is omnipotent, because it gathers around them an admiring crowd of needy borrowers and speculating sycophants.

The man who is made rich by some lucky chance or sordid occupation, is one whose wealth is acquired through a process which demands neither superior gifts, preeminent skill, or ennobling ideas; whereas the man whose valiant struggles have been made in spheres of usefulness that elevate alike the mind and spirit, and who thereby has won wealth, has also in the processes of the laborious toil he has successfully passed through, acquired a just and true knowledge of himself—of his defects no less than of his gifts—of all his weaknesses as surely as of his strength. And such a man—the true workman—the genuine man of genius—such a man as Robert Stephenson, for instance—we may rest assured will venture to put himself into no position he is not fully qualified to fill. He will never make himself absurd, or ridiculous, or impertinent, or intrusive. He will be as true to himself in prosperity as he was in poverty; he will always be in his own place, and emblazon it by the memories of his by-gone career. Such men, no matter how lowly born, or imperfectly educated, are never vulgar. The man who has sprung into wealth by vulgar means will be always vulgar, and the more intrinsically mean and sordid have been the means employed for acquiring a fortune, always the more ready will he be to intrude himself into a position to which he has not the slightest claim.

The Legislature has wisely done away with all "property qualifications" which were formerly required from every person seeking to be a member of Parliament; but popular opinion still imposes disqualifications upon candidates. The people still expect that all who desire to represent them in Parliament shall claim their suffrages on the ground that they have talents which can be devoted to the service of their country, that their principles are consistent with popular feelings; and the people also look as a guarantee for the professions of the candidates to their past career. If persons have no better claim than the example before us, namely, that they have achieved independence by carrying on an occupation which is generally considered ignoble, all such candidates for popular suffrages may learn from the results of the Marylebone election that they will be very fortunate indeed if they can find even one elector to give a vote in their favour.

Men who have acquired wealth by such means may rest assured that it alone is not sufficient to command either the respect or confidence of the public. Wealth cannot buy an exalted position for those who are personally disqualified to be its possessors; and could it be obtained, the occupancy would be a constant source of painful embarrassment to the intruders, because exposing their ignorance, making their vulgarity conspicuous, and themselves ridiculous.

Wealth is not omnipotent in this country.

THE POPE IN WESTMINSTER.

WHEN will the Papacy cease bestowing honours on us heretics? It gave us a Cardinal in 1850, and we are told it generously intends to give us a Pope in 1861. We cannot be too thankful for these decennial attentions. Supposing this to be the purpose of the Vatican, we are of opinion that the party most benefited would be the Pope himself. Unable any longer to endure the heat of Rome, he finds Jerusalem full of troubles and Syria of red trousers; Austria too far gone, in many ways, to give him a night's lodging; France almost apostate, and America in the throes of a revolution; and London the only quiet capital on earth. The weary old man naturally thinks his old bones may enjoy a little rest where the waves of the troubled sea of Europe do not come. The change will mightily benefit his health, and in some degree heal that heart which, he tells us in his pastorals, has been so frequently grieved and broken.

He will find the slums of Westminster at least as clean as the streets of Rome, and old Father Thames rather better than the yellow Tiber. What he long feared and deprecated at Rome—gas lamps and railways and newspapers—he will find to be perfectly harmless, if not positively useful, in London. To his amazement he will learn, it is possible, to bless and curse, wash pilgrims' feet, and baptize Jews, furnished to any amount, at so much a head, with the presence of a couple of police men instead of a regiment of soldiers to keep the ground. He may see among us the amplest toleration of every sect that does not break the law of the land, while in his present capital the English chapel is an old granary outside the *Porta del Popolo*, and its service is interdicted in the sacred capital, lest its infection may taint the air or injure the orthodoxy of his children. He may be led to appreciate our generosity by noticing a Roman Catholic pro-cathedral in Moorfields and another in Westminster; and, should he feel so disposed, he may build a third in Brompton. The only restriction he may feel—and we admit the inconvenience—will be, that he will be prevented kidnapping a young Mortara, or imprisoning a too zealous Protestant, or shutting up a church or chapel in which his pretensions may have been canvassed. He may, if so

inclined, have Exeter Hall for High Mass, and St. James's Hall for Vespers; and, should he desire to have a field day, there are two or three Protestant controversialists ready to take up the gauntlet and gratify him to his heart's content. There is even a chance that Mr. Spurgeon, in his excess of liberality, will offer him a turn with the many preachers of conflicting tenets, who have been trying their strength in the Tabernacle.

If change of scene and situation can do anything for the Pontifical invalid his transference, or as the Scottish Church would designate it, his "transportation" to Westminster may accomplish wonders. He may see a sovereign safe in the loyalty of her subjects, and a people in the fullest enjoyment of liberty without licence. Nor will it be less refreshing to his soul to witness a free press that fearlessly and yet respectfully discusses every act of our rulers, censuring what is wrong when upheld by the greatest, and justifying the right, the true, and the beneficial, even when its advocates are few and feeble. It is true the "mousing owl" has difficulties in seeing at noon day, but time works wonders. The Pope, like Balaam upon Zophim, may feel the divine afflatus of the new realm, and bless those he has long been accustomed to curse. We are sure of this, that come when he may he will receive from us what he never conceded to us, a fair field and an ample opportunity.

SENSATION JOURNALISM.

THE inherent vice of the American public press, an habitual disregard and contempt of truth, is now incurring an appropriate punishment. The most important event in the modern history of the American people has been so described by the newspapers that the whole occurrence is tinged with ridicule and brought down to the region of absurdity and burlesque. Of no event that has happened for many years would an exact account have been more valuable than of the attack on Fort Sumpter. But fidelity to facts is the last thing to look for in an American journal; so, instead of giving a truthful narrative, that would have been read with the deepest interest, the American journals

"Evade us with a bombast circumstance,
Horribly stuffed with epithets of war,"

and actually set the world laughing at the first crash of a civil conflict that will rend a great Republic asunder. It is not that we are bloodthirsty, or wish to hear of wounds and slaughter; but when we have a description of a furious artillery battle of fourteen hours, in which thousands of shots were fired from the most destructive weapons known to military science, without the loss of a single man on either side, we begin to be incredulous. It has actually, and not without reason, been questioned if there has been any real fighting at all; and suspicions are expressed that all the firing only covered a pre-arranged "cross." Thus may a great event be degraded to the ridiculous by the manner in which it is recorded.

The "sensation" journalism of America is a curse, and the more to be lamented, as it is an expression of the national character. It has its root in a too general want of reverence for things really sacred. How is it to be explained that a people, rather strict than lax in all the external observances of religion, are so reckless of human life, and so indifferent to truth—real religion teaching respect for both? But everything must yield to "sensation" and "excitement"; the papers must startle and horrify, or they would be considered unreadable. They compete with each other in feeding the diseased appetite of the masses with distortions of fact of the most monstrous kind; all is perversion and exaggeration. Nor these alone, but a whole flood of romance is poured out, in which it would be a vain labour to attempt to discover a fact.

It would almost seem as if the whole nation were in its infancy, and required to be told fables to amuse it—the more monstrous the better—not having the reasoning power sufficiently matured to appreciate the truth. The rapidity with which the greatest catastrophes are forgotten in America, after they have furnished their day or two of "sensation" reports in the journals, is but another proof of a want of grasp and depth in the public mind. This extraordinary levity is one of the most unaccountable peculiarities of the nation, for, as a people, the masses are not gay or joyous; but levity of thought is a greater defect than levity of manner. The airy lightness of the Frenchman is, at least, graceful and amusing; but American levity is displayed most on the most serious incidents, and indicates some lamentable defect of the brain and heart. What an aggregate of folly must journalists know they are addressing when they feel it necessary to describe an awful calamity in the style of a trashy novel? A "sensation" is all that is required at their hands, not matter for reflection and judgment. The scene in Charleston Harbour is regarded just as the opening of a melodrama, with "startling effects." The only chance Europe has of hearing the true account is that some English "own correspondent" was there to describe it.

This illustration of the vice of American journalism is furnished just as a high testimony has been borne to the general veracity of the English public press. Mr. Disraeli, on Monday evening, in claiming for his party the credit of freeing newspapers from the "shackles" of the stamp and advertisement duties, eulogised the younger born of the press for its "authentic intelligence." He should have added that the standard of morality in this respect was established long before the release of the broad sheet from its fiscal bondage. Authentic intelligence was required by the public, and given by its journals, when, from their cost, they paid a heavy tribute to the Inland Revenue. He joined the merit with the price, as if the truth of our public news had only been obtained through its cheapness, which is a mistake. No matter what the cost of our journals may be, we are happy to think the public will require from them truth in matters of fact.

English readers are annoyed and irritated when they detect an elaborate lie; and they recognise no cleverness in a hoax three columns long. They could base no conclusions on a "sensation" article that would fill an American with delight, and would be to his brain like a dram to his stomach—the satisfaction of a craving. A general respect for truth is one of the best parts of our national character; our newspapers simply reflect it. The journal that habitually and on calculation invented or distorted facts would soon lose repute, and with that its circulation; it would die, "and there an end." A journal, conducted without a conscience, at least as to its facts, is an impossibility in England. May it long be so. But there are instances enough of a cheap press, without that corrective, having been the reverse of a blessing.

The time was when Journals were cheap enough in France—cheap enough to ensure all the virtues, if they were created by lowness of price. Yet the unfairness, the violence, and the want of truth of French journalism made it hated and feared, as a power misused, till the strong hand that put it to silence was welcomed by society as the hand of a friend.

This may have been "a casting out of devils through Beelzebub," but the work was done nevertheless. It is for journalists to read the lesson. Cheap newspapers were not, in France, "a light to those walking in darkness," as Mr. Bright said in Monday's debate, but false fires that have led the nation into the ditch, and left it there! And how much of the terrible political and social convulsion in America has been caused by the spirit that demands from the stern incidents of life only "sensation," and "excitement?"—and which has now got both,—with a vengeance!

SPRING IN THE COUNTRY AND IN TOWN.

How beautiful is spring! Earth puts forth its long-repressed vitality in buds, in blossoms, and in verdure. The young, timid bud peeps out as if watching and waiting to ascertain with certainty that winter has left; the blossom, wherever it has been fully unfolded, looks as if it said, "I have conquered the frost-king,—mine is the conqueror's fragrant crown;" the bee avails himself of the first sunny hour, and sets out on a voyage of discovery in quest of flowers; the thrush is in such ecstasy at the dawning warmth of summer, that he makes the woods ring with song, wakening up every sleepy living thing to a sense of its mission. The first crocus or the early violet are more beautiful, certainly more inspiring, than all the tints of the foliage of the autumn. Infancy is always lovelier than age; and suggestions of immortality are dearer and more delightful than the harbingers of decay, however brilliant the tints it throws up. In this sweet season, tree and flower, and insect, and buried seed, seem all to be engaged in one intense competition who shall first reach its perfection, and, in doing so, most enhance the glory of nearing summer. Hailing the approach of spring, and blending with its jubilee, we also hear the chimes of Easter bells pealing out a yet grander resurrection.

Nature seems in this mundane economy of ours labouring under a repressive influence she evermore strives to throw off. She seems to yearn for deliverance, and so to yearn as if in her heart she felt the earnest and the prophecy of a day when she will fling off her heavy burden; rise up in all her original perfection, and, laying aside the weeds of decay and disease and death, put on her coronation robes, her bridal garments, and appear once more in the circle of the sisterhood of orbs and worlds that have experienced no fall and need no *palingenesia*. The evidence of this is detected in the universal law of aspiration which distinguishes all her elements, agencies, and living things. The quartz and the iron put forth crystals as if ambitious to attain the higher dignity of the flower. The flower reveals, under the touch of cultivation, hidden possibilities of glory and of beauty, which art, by removing a few of its restraints, helps it to develop, and some flowers follow the sun's path as if they felt the breath of a higher life. Instinct in some creatures—as in birds, in dogs, and in horses—touches the edge of intelligence and imbibes a portion of its marvellous power. EXCELSIOR is the movement of all things, in effort at least, if not always with success, from the snowdrop to the oak—from the bee to the behemoth—from its tiniest atom to the round globe itself. *Sursum corda* is the invitation of spring—the chorus of its rising and living things, its streams, its woods, its flowers. Yet, as if there were no absolute success, there is an undertone of sadness in all its sounds. In fact, every voice of nature is in the minor key, whether you listen to the tinkling of streams, the bleating of sheep, or the lowing of cattle, or the murmurs of the sea waves, or the song of birds, or the sighing of the winds. But occasionally we hear snatches of the major—the highest attainments of the present and the pledges of a future and glorious transposition—from that grand Æolian harp through which nature pours the tides of harmony that lie concealed in the depths of her heart, waiting for the day when all her repressive restraints shall be removed and she will recover her primeval powers of melody and music. The very sun looks down in spring-tide as if he had renewed his youth, and joyous nature looks up to him as a bride to her bridegroom. The holly, the ivy, and the laurestinus look paler in the light and amid the foliage of young spring; yet they should not be depreciated, they have kept open in winter the path for summer to return, and so prevented hope from dying out of human hearts.

There is spring, too, in town as well as in the country. London feels and expresses with its deep muffled roar the return of spring. The hard flagstones are beaten by more numerous feet; those great arteries, the chief streets and thoroughfares, heave more than ordinarily with the pulses of traffic. Equipages and carriages intermingle with vans and omnibuses, and lighten the otherwise dark and heavy procession of metropolitan life. Counties and towns pour in their representatives; and complaints, and wants, and grievances send up their deputations with parchments, and plans, and documents, endless and varied as advertisements in the *Times* newspaper. The very shops imitate the flowers, and invitingly display their gayest attractions. Almack unfolds its doors, and beauty puts forth its claims; and the products of India and Persia, and the creations of the looms of France, and the glory of all lands, are combined and reflected in London. Religion, too, sends up its representatives to set forth her claims and to tell the chequered story of her successes and her defeats wherever the snow falls, or the sun shines, or ignorance exists, or superstition darkens the heart of man. The walls of every church and chapel, and the boarding in every street, are covered with huge placards, announcing plays in Drury Lane, operas in Covent Garden, and pantomime elsewhere, and sermons in cathedrals, and lectures in chapels, and fun and wisdom, farce and seriousness, in tabernacles. One may see displayed, in huge capitals, Sims Reeves and Mr. Spurgeon, Dr. McNeile and Louisa Pyne, Miss Dolby and the Bishop of London, Dr. Pusey, Cardinal Wiseman, and Dr. Cumming, as if they were all earnestly employed in the same performance, and candidates for fame, presenting themselves to the great public of spring as it treads the dusty highways of London.

Among the freshest arrivals of spring is that marvellous young old man, Lord Palmerston. He comes up jubilant as the earliest lark, and crisp and

new as the brightest spring flower. No frost of age seems to have chilled the life that glows in the region of his heart. A sunshine breaks out through his furrowed features and lights up that countenance of three-score and sixteen years with the lights of forty years, as if in the depths of his soul were an unwasted youth which finds openings through his eyes and expression in his speech. Lord Palmerston lives in everybody's memory as a young man. He seems to have found the philosopher's stone, or to have bathed in the fountain of perpetual youth. With him it is always spring. He is a living evergreen. Were he to cease to appear in the House, or his speeches no more to be seen in our Parliamentary reports, it would feel as if London had lost its spring, and Parliament its best bit of sunshine.

The ever renewed sprig in the button-hole of his coat is the type of the Premier. His heart keeps green notwithstanding many a trouble. Feeling as much as other men, he retains the happy power of throwing off his mind the worry, while he keeps in hand the work of each day. Perhaps, too, under that merry mood, and far back of the witty remark, and deep down in the recesses of his nature, may lie, neither dried up in summer's heat, nor frozen over in winter's cold, full springs that freshen his life and yield him in his quiet hours sustaining draughts. When it shall cease to be spring with him, we trust he will lay his head on his pillow and find his last sleep to be everlasting refreshment. His buoyant spirits have lighted up many a hard and prosy debate, and vivified many a dull house, and made the old and leafless survivors of autumn open their eyes and fancy it was spring again.

SKETCHES FROM THE HOUSE.

BY THE SILENT MEMBER.

THE preliminary debate on the Budget was, for the most part, dull and aimless. Half a dozen times the House might have been counted out. On Thursday week speakers could scarcely be found to keep the discussion going, and, but for a sort of compact between the "Whips," which has its uses in preventing party surprises, the debate need not have been adjourned until Monday. The Opposition defended the prolonged debate, *sans* amendment, by the example and experience of the Reform Bill. When a party motion is before the House the tongues of members are tied. To be candid or critical is to be unfaithful to your party. If Lord J. Russell had been willing to go into Committee on the Derby-Disraeli Reform Bill we should have heard some sharp strictures upon the Bill from the Conservative benches. In abstaining from proposing an amendment to the second reading of the Russell Reform Bill of the following year, Disraeli showed himself a good strategist. The Blacks, Gregorys, and Masseys were encouraged to criticize the Government Bill, and inflicted upon it ten-fold more damage than the Derbyite orators. Encouraged by the success of his "masterly inactivity" on this occasion, the Opposition leader took the same course upon the Budget. The motion to go into Committee on a financial scheme is equivalent to the second reading of a Bill. It is the time to debate its principle, and to move an amendment to it as a whole. So Mr. T. Baring was put up to set the example of discussing the financial proposals of the Government with candour. To put hon. members opposite still more at their ease, the astute financier—sitting, bless you! below the gangway, to show his independence of Disraeli—deprecated any change of Ministry. The country desired a strong Government at the present moment, and a succession of weak Governments would be a real calamity. Here was a warm sun in April! Summer had surely arrived, and would not the Treasury butterflies come out freely and flutter in its pleasant beams? Could there be any danger of cold nipping nights or a frosty air when an atmosphere so balmy surrounded the House?

The trap was well baited; and if the fox smelt, yet hesitated, it must be remembered that last year he scarcely escaped without the loss of his tail from a similar snare. It is somewhat remarkable that the old Whigs, who liked the Government Reform Bill least, again shake their heads at Gladstone's Budget, Mr. Publisher Black excepted. Yet there has been little or no hostile criticism of the financial scheme from the Ministerial benches. Mr. Moffat, chairman and Parliamentary representative of the City tea-brokers, cries out that there is nothing like leather, and would drown the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a teapot. Pope says:—

"Soft yielding minds to water glide away,
And sip, with *Horsfall*, elemental tea."

The member for Honiton, almost alone upon the Ministerial benches, thus retired to his "first element," and the Government seemed to gain, rather than lose, by the adjourned debate. A party-fight, in which the division line between Liberals and Conservatives was pretty sharply marked, therefore seemed to be impending. The House is always on the *qui vive* at such seasons. It was known, too, that on Monday the skirmishers would be called in and the heavy artillery brought up. At half-past four floor and gallery were filled. *Horsman* was to open the ball, and Bright was to follow. It would be give and take, "hammer and tongs," and the two would fill up a couple of hours or so very agreeably until dinner-time.

There has been nothing like *Horsman's* diatribes against Palmerston since Disraeli's attacks upon Peel. The motive may not have been in the first instance dissimilar, for there are people who pretend that Peel might have attached the young and brilliant novelist to his person and policy if he had gone the right way to work, and initiated him into the craft and mystery of the art of governing. Yet how different the spirit with which the two men fought out their quarrel. The one, gay and insouciant, assailed his victim with brilliant wit and satire, enjoyed the fun with school-boy abandon, and when he had driven his great opponent from office never made the slightest attack upon him, except on one occasion, when Peel, just before his death, made a severe onslaught on the Protectionist party. The other pursues his victim with a settled spiteful malignity painful to witness. His vituperation is as little relieved by liveliness of fancy as it is chequered by any gleam of good humour. Disappointment and mortified ambition are stamped on every line of a face, whose portraiture should have inscribed upon it the lines of Juvenal:—

"Invidia Siculi non invenere tyranni
Tormentum majus."

We sometimes hear an incarnation of envy and malevolence calling upon all men to bear witness how incapable it is of malice or prejudice. To-night

we had a gaunt, lugubrious figure rising from the front bench below the Ministerial gangway. It is charged with envenomed sentences, nicely poised, carefully prepared, and distinctly remembered. It turns to the Treasury bench, for all its shafts are labelled "To Philip's right eye." An assumed calmness governs its actions. The right hand seeks support from the upper button of the waistcoat, and is only withdrawn to be laid on the open palm of the other, or to take part in some gesture indicative of moderation and reasonableness. The tall, lugubrious, small-eyed, high-cheekboned, disappointed-looking member has the invaluable faculty of remembering, and of delivering with the ease and self-possession of a practised debater, polished inuendos, which do not simply *smell* of the lamp, but *stink* of the lamp, the right honourable gentleman's lamp-oil being of the rancidest.

For one hundred mortal minutes did the member, by courtesy, for Stroud say the most bitter things that malevolence could invent against the Budget and the Chancellor, all the while assuming the tone of one of the most candid, unprejudiced, and disinterested of critics. It said much for the ability of the man, but a thousand times more for the fairness and candour of the House that he was listened to with attention.

The Opposition have, of course, special reasons for encouraging Horsman in his attacks on the Ministry, and there is no gratitude in politicians if he find not in a Derby Cabinet the seat that the present Premier has refused him. At present, however, we have heard little or nothing about a change of political opinion. It required no little courage to make such a speech to five hundred men, every one of whom believed that the Malay of St. Stephen's would be at this moment a member of Lord Palmerston's Government, defending all his measures, and admiring all his Budgets, but for his own personal grounds of quarrel with our Noble Viscount. The spectacle was not particularly wholesome, nay, was calculated to turn the stomach of the strongest party man. Such men and such scenes do not increase the respect with which our public men are regarded. The people are but too prone to consider the strife of politicians as a mere sordid struggle for office and salary, and they are as little likely as the House itself to respect a man whose highest ambition is to be a thorn in the side of his former chief.

Every one breathed more freely when Horsman sat down. He was stoutly cheered by the Derbyites of course, yet he had become tedious. Five perorations in one speech, and each a spiteful and carefully conned philippic, are more than flesh and blood can bear. The sky had been darkened, and something like a figure on a broomstick had passed through the sky, and infected the air. These unwholesome exhalations vanished like the mist before Bright's round English cheerful face. He supports the Paper Duty repeal with vigour and eloquence. But his greatest triumphs are his appeals, in which he is unequalled, to the conscience and good sense of the Opposition. "I admit," said he, "that this is my Budget. I approve, I adopt it, and therefore it is mine. I have supported the Budgets of the last twenty years. But you have always opposed them. What have been the fruits of the revolution in our commercial legislation? If you are now in the secure enjoyment of your estates, if—and I ask you now, in your consciences—whether much of all this is not fairly and justly to be attributed to the policy and the Budgets of the last twenty years, which I have always supported, and which you, unhappily for your reputation, have always opposed." While he says this he is looking with unblenched face, and pointing with demonstrative and manly gesture at the triple rows and crowded benches of a great and influential party, who, sooth to say, wince a little under the plainness and directness of his speech, and feel a little easier when he sits down.

What a rush to dinner! No need to return till about ten, when we shall find the Chancellor of the Exchequer on his legs. I liked his speech to-night better than that on the Budget. One of the most convincing demonstrations of a matter in its very nature conjectural, which it was ever my lot to hear, was his defence of his calculations of a surplus. His case in favour of the Paper Duty repeal was not gone into in its entirety, but sufficient was indicated of its scope and claims to promise a case that will be unanswerable. While the logic was trenchant and rigorous, the manner persuasive, fluent, sustained, and entirely his own, made the occupation of listening to him an intellectual feast of the highest order. Gladstone in his happiest moments invests a Budget with the attractions of a romance, and imparts to the history of a surplus the fascination of a story in the "Arabian Nights."

Disraeli followed with some good robust party hits that were cheered by his followers with the fox-hunting enthusiasm which distinguishes country gentlemen. Then the ground being cleared for the real party fight, we went home; the more sanguine Ministerialists declaring that our Noble Viscount will carry his Paper Duty abolition by a majority of thirty; and the Opposition professing that we are on the eve of a general election, and that they would not wish for a better hustings cry than a cheap cup of tea against a cheap newspaper. It is clear on which side all the old women of the country will be.

CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE.

A FEW words in our scientific department will appropriately follow the article which we gave last week on the important subject of rifles and rifle shooting. The discussions which have lately occupied so large a share of public attention have been almost exclusively confined to the respective merits of the rifles manufactured in this country, it being generally admitted that whilst the Enfield or the Lancaster rifle may possibly be equalled by the choice productions of other countries, the Whitworth remains unapproached in accuracy. But, whilst we have been introducing into the manufacture of this weapon every refinement which our Manchester mechanicians could devise, and have heard with satisfaction the results of competitive trials with the rifles of other nations which have invariably had to yield the palm to our own weapons, our readers may perhaps be prepared to hear that our American cousins have for some years been in possession of a rifle which appears to approach, if it does not actually equal, in excellence our own Whitworth instrument. O. N. Rood, the Professor of Chemistry in Troy University, New York, has, for a considerable time past, been devoting his attention and conducting experiments, having for their object the examination of the circumstances affecting the accurate flight of elongated projectiles. The results of his experiments are most important, and are not only valuable in a practical point of view, but are interesting as throwing much light upon some obscure points in the scientific laws governing the flight of projectiles.

The experiments were made, with but few exceptions, with rifles manufactured by Nelson Lewis, of Troy, New York, and were of the model sometimes called "Kentucky," or more properly, "Improved American." In reference to these weapons Professor Rood remarks, that rifles of this model, as manufactured by Mr. Lewis, hold much the same relation to the English or continental arms that the Oertling balance does to the scales of the apothecary; a fact which has not escaped the notice of the author of the article on gunmaking in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," where, after a description of the performance of this rifle at a distance of 220 yards at a match in the open air, he concludes, "The whole of the ten shots would have gone into a small-sized playing card. A feat of this kind is probably unparalleled in Great Britain." The rifles were all provided with the sights known as the "globe and bead," as well as with set locks. Two were supplied with the false or loading muzzle, and all, with one exception, had "guide starters," which ensured the accurate placing of the ball in the barrel. Linen patches were in every case employed, *not greased, but moistened*, it being there pretty well understood that the latter afford the more accurate practice. After each shot the barrel was wiped out with a slightly moistened rag, dampness being guarded against by a repetition of the process with one that was dry.

The first experiments were undertaken with a view to ascertain the initial velocity of balls of different sizes and shapes, propelled with different weights of powder. For this purpose two ballistic pendulums were used, against which the balls were fired, and the initial velocity being given in this way, it was easy to calculate the rapidity with which the projectile spun; for if the velocity with which any ball leaves the rifle barrel be known, and likewise the twist of the grooves, the rate of revolution of such ball per second is easily found:—thus, if the initial velocity should be 1,000 feet per second, and the twist one turn in five feet, it is plain that at the moment of leaving the muzzle the ball will be revolving at the rate of 200 times per second. The balls were fired with different initial velocities, at targets of pasteboard, placed at certain distances from the rifle, and an examination of the holes made, at once indicated whether the rate of rotation sufficed to compel it to rotate truly and point foremost, for if this were not the case the projectile would, of course, make *oval* instead of circular holes in the target. In this manner the number of revolutions per second which it was necessary for a projectile of any particular shape to make, in order to proceed on its flight with accuracy, was determined. With one ball this was found to be 285 revolutions per second; with another, slightly longer, 340 were required; a third ball required to make 216; a fourth, 188; and so on. Comparisons were also made with celebrated rifles of other countries, and it was found that in the case of the Swiss federal rifle the ball leaves the barrel, making 453 revolutions per second; with Jacobs' rifle the ball made 422 revolutions per second; whilst with the Whitworth rifle the number of rotations which the projectile makes per second was estimated at between 960 and 1,020.

The question now suggests itself, if 700 or 800 revolutions per second are necessary for the flight of a projectile two and a half diameters in length, at a high velocity, why should not this rate of rotation be communicated to it? The answer is found in the practical difficulties. The friction and recoil become enormous, the act of discharge twisting the rifle over sideways and out of the line of sight. In the American rifle, with a gaining twist, where the friction, twisting, &c., are reduced to a minimum, it has been found that the maximum number of revolutions per second that can properly be communicated to a ball is from 500 to 550; and many will be ready to deny that even this rate can be employed with other than very heavy rifles of very small calibre, without greatly impairing the accuracy. According to Chapman, a rifle giving an initial velocity of 1,680 feet with a rate of rotation of 420 times in a second, will, when fired, twist over sideways in spite of all one can do, and also kick or recoil very severely. Surely if such recoil and twisting can be felt and seen, the tendency of the bullets to scatter and strike the target in a circle, and not in a straight line is easily accounted for. Where accuracy is aimed at it is highly desirable not to employ a rate of revolution such as is able barely to cause the projectile to fly point foremost: a very notable excess above this quantity is essential for good practice. The Professor concludes his remarks on the best proportion to be preserved between the length and diameter of the projectiles by saying that "while all the foregoing tends to explain why it has been found necessary in Europe to use low initial velocities with these *highly* elongated projectiles, it at the same time gives us little reason to expect that they will ever be able to compete with their shorter and more manageable rivals."

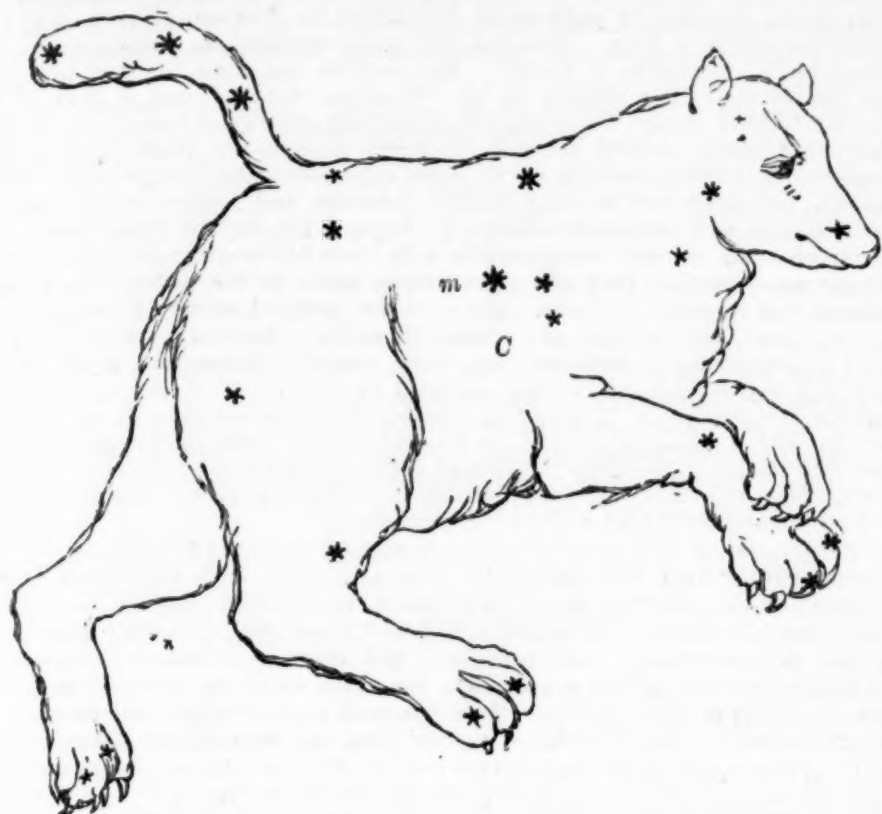
Experiments were next instituted upon the best form for the base of the projectile. Most balls in use at the present day have their bases either flat, slightly convex as in the American model, or more or less deeply concave as in all those constructed on the expansion principle. It has been found that balls having a flat base, and moving with a velocity greater than 1,200 feet per second, leave behind them a perfect vacuum, which, in addition to other sources of resistance, retards their progress by a pressure in front equal to fifteen pounds to the square inch of projectile surface; and as air rushes into a vacuum at the rate of 1,150 feet per second, it became a question whether, by an alteration in the shape of the base of the ball this vacuum could be prevented, and the extra atmospheric pressure in front be diminished. This idea was not, however, borne out by experiment. Various projectiles were made, shaped like a double cone; but although they rivalled in accuracy of performance the pickets with flat bases, they were slightly *slower* in the time of their flight; the sharpness of the stern not at all compensating for the necessary bluntness of the bows. The inferiority in the flight of the double conical balls was not owing to a disfiguration in their shape. To test this a number were fired into a bank of snow at a distance of 500 yards; when dug out they were found to be as perfect in their proportions as at the time of loading. It was ultimately found that the air, struck by the forward part of the ball, was thrown from it with such force at high velocities, that a vacuum was produced behind it, whatever its form might be; the vacuum being more perfect the blunter the point was made.

THE NEW COMET.

On Monday last, Mr. James Parkin, of Henry-street, St. John's Wood, on directing his telescope towards the constellation of the Great Bear, swept over an object which he thought to be a new comet, a discovery which has since been

confirmed by additional observations by himself, Mr. Thomas Crumplen, of the Strand, and Mr. John Townsend, of Theobald's Road.

It was on Wednesday evening last first visible to the naked eye, and its right ascension then was 162; its declination 55.20+.



The position of this new comet is near the star Merak (m.) and is indicated in our diagram of Ursa Major by the letter C.

We have also received the following Council Circular from the Royal Astronomical Society:—

OBSERVATORY, WASHINGTON, April 12, 1861.

The following observations have been made at this Observatory, by Mr. Ferguson, of a Comet discovered on the night of the 4th of the present month, at the Observatory of Mr. Rutherford in New York, by Mr. A. E. Thatcher.

M. T. Washington.

	h. m. s.	h. m. s.	° ' "
April 10	10 10 20.6	17 7 56.71	+ 59 26 13.53
" 11	8 38 9.5	17 2 32.55	+ 60 7 20.53

The Comet is circular; about two minutes in diameter, condensed at the centre, and with some appearance of a nucleus.

M. F. MAURY.

LEARNED SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

At the last meeting of the British Archaeological Association, T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., V.P., in the chair, the Rev. J. L. Petit, M.A., F.S.A., Alwin Shutt Bell, Esq., Charles Hill, Esq., the Rev. J. A. Addison, M.A., and Robert Jennings, Esq., were elected Associates.

The Rev. Mr. Scarth communicated the particulars of an interesting discovery just made at Bathwick Hill. It consisted of three stone coffins of ordinary shape, but better wrought than common. One contained the skeleton of a female placed in very fine sand, which had been subjected to the microscope and was found to contain particles of a coarse woven garment, pitch, some flaxen hair, and a bead. It is not sea sand. A male skeleton was found in another coffin, embedded in coarser sand. The skulls had been pronounced by Dr. Thurnham to be Roman or Romano-British. The third coffin was found in Sydney Gardens, where the tomb of a priest to the god Sol had been dug up, an account of which has been printed in the Journal of the Association. It contained the skeleton of a female, apparently about fifty years of age, and has not yet been minutely examined.

The Rev. Mr. Kell forwarded some Saxon coins found at Southampton, which seemed to corroborate the opinion as to the extension of the ancient site of the town to St. Mary's-road. The coins were of Offa, Coelnoth, Burgred, Aethelbert, and Egbert. Mr. Kell also communicated some interesting particulars relating to Netley Abbey, visited by the Association in 1855, when it was desired to make excavations in regard to the reported existence of a crypt, a hope being entertained of finding some inscriptions of the names of abbots of the abbey. At very great expense excavations and restorations have been made, the crypt has no existence, but many bases of columns and other portions of wall and buildings have been discovered.

Mr. Roberts presented the impression of a seal in the possession of Lady Corbet, of Sundorne, Salop. It was the signet of an Abbot Sherrington, and although found at Haughmond Abbey, his name does not occur in the published list of the abbots, and it has nothing ecclesiastical in character about it.

Mr. Clarke exhibited an unpublished Roman quinarius of Otho IV., Emperor of Germany, 1208—1212; and Dr. Palmer sent an account, with drawings, of the discovery of Roman remains at East Ilsley, in Berks.

Mr. Forman exhibited a most beautiful Anglo-Saxon fibula, crested into seven rays, 4 inches in length, plated with gold, and set with slabs of paste of a blue, green, and garnet colour. It had also fifteen pearls and eleven silver studs. It was said to have been exhumed in Kent.

Dr. Copland exhibited a MS. Latin Missal, with illuminations, apparently English work, of the end of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century. Mr. Thomas Wright made some remarks upon this manuscript. He read an entry from it to the effect that in the year 1538 it belonged to a person named Edward Beaupré, perhaps, from some entries in the calendar, an ecclesiastic of Ely, who had written his name in it in several places; and he pointed out on a fly-leaf at the end the following distich, in a handwriting probably of the end of the fifteenth century, but certainly older than the time of Edward Beaupré, whose signature follows it on the same page:—

"The cockney of London canne welle telle,
That longe lyenge in bedde bredethe a brothelle."

Mr. Wright said that this was much earlier than any instance previously known of the application of the term *cockney* to the inhabitants of London, and that it was on that account very curious. The word "cockney," which is believed to be merely a familiar diminutive of cock (the fowl), was used generally at a rather early date in the sense of a soft and effeminate person, wanting manliness, but

fond of self-indulgence, and its application satirically to the citizens of London no doubt gave rise to its modern restricted use, which had not hitherto been traced back farther than the end of the sixteenth century. The word *brothelle*, as used in the foregoing distich, meant at that time a bad or infamous person.

The Chairman closed the meeting by acquainting the members that Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.A., C.B., M.P., had accepted the Presidency, and that he would attend the Congress in Devon, to be held at Exeter from the 19th to the 24th of August inclusive. Arrangements were in active progress with the Exeter and Devon Architectural Diocesan Society, the Devon Institution, &c., and the Congress promised, under the patronage of the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the Bishop of the Diocese, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, and other influential persons, to be one of great interest and success.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society of Literature, J. G. Teed, Esq., Q.C., in the chair, the following President, Vice-Presidents, and Council, were elected for the year 1861-2:—

President, The Lord Bishop of St. David's. Vice-Presidents, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, the Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle, K.G., the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Sir John Boileau, Bart., Sir John Dorant, M.D., William Tooke, Esq., the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron, Sir Henry Creswick Rawlinson, K.C.B., Henry Fox Talbot, Esq., F.R.S.

Council—Benjamin Austen, Esq.; Rev. Churchill Babington; J. Bonomi, Esq.; Beriah Botfield, Esq., M.P.; Edward Buller, Esq.; Thomas Greenwood, Esq.; Augustus Guest, LL.D.; John Hogg, Esq.; the Rev. Thomas Hugo; James Hunt, Esq.; William Longman, Esq.; Professor Mariette; Rev. J. J. S. Perowne; R. S. Poole, Esq.; J. Godfrey Teed, Esq., Q.C.; W. S. W. Vaux, Esq. Treasurer—William Tooke, Esq. Auditors—Henry Willoughby, Esq.; Philip Hardwick, Esq. Librarian—Rev. J. J. S. Perowne. Foreign Secretary—John Hogg, Esq. Hon. Secretary—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq.

At the meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, on Monday, a paper was read "On the rate of mortality prevailing in the families of the peerage during the nineteenth century," by Messrs. Arthur Hutcheson Bailey and Archibald Day.

The paper referred to some investigations on the same subject by the late Mr. Farren, Mr. Edmonds, and Dr. Guy, pointing out certain defects in them, and remarking that some of the conclusions heretofore arrived at were not to be relied upon—the observations having been made on the ages at death only, without any regard to the numbers living. The present observations had been made on peers, sons and daughters of peers, and sons and daughters of peers' eldest sons; and, in order that the results might be compared with other modern tables of mortality, the time over which the observations extended had been limited to the present century. The number of cases brought under observation was 7,473, —4,221 being males, and 3,252 females; and tables were exhibited, showing the results for each sex separately, and for both combined.

The results showed that the families of the peerage are an unusually long-lived class. Amongst the males, the mean duration of life, at all ages under 73, exceeds, not merely that of the general population, but even that of the selected lives of the Equitable Assurance Society. In old age it is rather less than that of the Government Annuitants, but coincides very nearly with both the former tables.

With the females, the mean duration of life is throughout greater than that of the females of the general population, agreeing very closely with that of the Government Annuitants, at all ages under 55, but surpassing the latter in old age. In short, the female table indicated a more favourable mortality than any other table in ordinary use.

Reference was then made to some characteristic features of particular periods of life. In infancy and childhood, the mortality is only about one-third of that prevailing among the general population; but this remarkable advantage is, to some extent, counteracted on arriving at the age at which the first introduction into society usually takes place. Amongst the males between 20 and 30, and the females a few years younger, the mortality exceeds that of the general population at corresponding ages; the excess is greater in the case of the males, but is distinctly marked in both sexes.

Comparing the present with other observations on the comparative mortality of the sexes, reasons were given for arriving at the conclusion, that in early life and in old age the mortality of the female sex is less, and in middle life greater, than that of the male—the mean duration of life being at all ages greater for the female. The writers concluded by remarking on the importance of these results to Life Assurance and Reversionary Interest Societies, and by pointing out the practical application which might be made of them.

At the conclusion of the reading, a discussion arose on the subject of the paper, and great satisfaction was expressed at the very careful way in which the facts had been collected and at the conclusiveness of the reasoning upon them.

At the Numismatic Society, April 25th, W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair, Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., was duly elected a member of the Society.

The Hon. J. Leicester Warren read a short paper, communicated by R. S. Poole, Esq., of the British Museum, "On a copper coin of the class struck after the death of Alexander the Great, and before the assumption of regal titles by the generals." This coin, presumed to be unique, bears on the obverse the posthumous head of Alexander, with the horn of Jupiter Ammon, and clothed in the skin of an elephant; and on the reverse, the inscription [A]ΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Ν], and an anchor. M. Pinder has already shown good reason for classing the coins with this obverse, but different reverses, hitherto assigned to Alexander II. of Epirus, to Alexander the son of Roxana, and for concluding that they were struck in Egypt by Ptolemy I. This attribution is confirmed by our finding a similar coin with, on the reverse, an anchor, the famous badge of the House of Seleucus, whence we may infer that Seleucus I., like Ptolemy, struck money in the name of the younger Alexander before taking the title of King. The coin was brought from Persia.

Mr. Vaux read an account from the "Mechanics' Magazine," of the methods used in striking the new coinage.

Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, exhibited a cast of a third brass legionary coin of Carausius, having on the reverse a ram, with the letters M.L. (Londinium), in the exergue.

At the Anniversary Meeting of the Zoological Society, on Monday, 29th, at their house, in Hanover-square: Present—G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., V.P., in the chair; Admiral Bowles; Professor Busk; J. H. Gurney, Esq., M.P.; Sir P. Egerton, Bart., M.P.; G. Slater Booth, Esq., M.P.; G. Cornwall Legh, Esq., M.P.; Sir W. I. Newton, Rev. I. Barlow, Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., and others.

The business was commenced by the reading of the Auditor's Report, which congratulated the Society upon the continued improvement of the finances.

On the motion of R. A. Slaney, Esq., M.P., seconded by Sir P. Egerton, Bart., M.P., the report of the Council was approved and adopted.

The ballot for the council and officers for the ensuing year was declared to have resulted in the election of H.R.H. the Prince Consort as President, R. Drummond, Esq., as treasurer, and Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., Ph. D., as Secretary of the Society; and the Duke of Argyll, F.R.S., John Lubbock, Esq., F.R.S., Lord Llanover, Prof. Huxley, F.R.S., &c., Alfred Newton, Esq., M.A., F.L.S.,

&c., were elected as Members of the Council. R. Hudson, Esq., F.R.S., was also elected into the Council, in the place of E. J. Rudge, Esq., deceased.

The following gentlemen were added to the Publication Committee, in the room of the three gentlemen retiring by rotation:—Dr. John Lister, Dr. James Salter, and Osbert Salvin, Esq.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Scrutineers.

At the Ethnological Society on Wednesday, John Crawford, Esq., the president, in the chair, Capt. Parker Snow and Charles Ratcliffe, Esq., were elected fellows. The paper read was by W. E. Stanbridge, Esq., F.S.A., on "The general characteristics, customs, and mythology of the tribes of the central part of Victoria, Southern Australia." The author, who had resided for eighteen years in the wilds of Victoria, gave an interesting description of the aborigines. They are associated in tribes under separate hereditary chiefs, who consult the old men and the priests in their management of the affairs of the tribes. The fathers of every family have uncontrolled authority in their respective households, with power even over the lives of their wives. Each family has its allotment of land, which is transmitted by descent. This appropriation is so rigidly adhered to, that no member of one family enters the land of another unless invited to do so. The people are cannibals of the worst description, new-born babes being sometimes killed by their parents to be eaten.

The festivities of the Coroboree usually take place about the time of the new moon and last three days and nights. The entertainments consist of dancing at night and hunting in the day, and not unfrequently these gatherings end in fighting with boomerangs and spears. Deaths in the course of nature are attributed to the sorcery of enemies, and the feet of the dying person are supposed to point to the place where the enemy is to be found. Some of his relations then issue forth in that direction, and kill all whom they meet to avenge his death. Their notion of the creation of the sun is, that it was an emu's egg cast into space. The languages of the tribes are very various. The country from the Pyrenees to the Murray was represented as often being without rain for months, yet the natives had the strongest superstitious dislike to the burning of human hair, as they conceive it has the effect of producing showers.

In the discussion, in which Mr. Laing, Mr. Walker, Dr. Hodgskin, Mr. Cull, Captain Parker Snow, Mr. Luke Burke, Mr. Heywood, Dr. Conolly, and the President took part, the revolting state of cannibalism was particularly confirmed, but it was stated that the natives, knowing the sentiments of the whites, generally concealed it.

At the Royal Antiquarian Society, on Thursday, Mr. Augustus W. Franks read a paper "On an Exhibition of Original Matrices and Seals attached to Deeds, amounting to many hundreds in number." This exhibition will be open daily till Wednesday, the 8th, from the hour of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to Fellows, or persons introduced by Fellows, personally or otherwise.

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

THIS unquestionably is the favourite picture exhibition of the art season. Other collections we visit from a sense of duty, with a vague expectation and hope that among the mass of mediocrity, something *recherché* may be met with to reward our search. But with the Old Water-Colour Exhibition it is quite otherwise. We may as surely reckon upon being invited to inspect a cabinet of gems, and of the first water too, as upon seeing the doors of the gallery opened.

This society consists of those only who have given unquestionable evidence of talent; of artists whose claims rest upon the merits of works which have been weighed in the balance of public approval and found *not wanting*. The tentative efforts of the tyro, or the crude attempts of the amateur, find no place in the gallery at Pall Mall East. There, space is far too precious, and too much coveted by the veteran masters in *aquarelle*, for any to be awarded to those who have yet their laurels to win.

Fully cognizant of this fact, the public flocks to this eclectic exhibition in confident anticipation of experiencing unmingled satisfaction. The task of inspection becomes to the connoisseur most pleasant and agreeable. Refined taste incurs no risk of being shocked by startling or repulsive crudities. Here, to see, is to admire, and woe to him who ventures to cavil or doubt where even palpable faults find their champions and stout defenders.

But we must attempt to assort this cabinet of gems,—to separate the emeralds, rubies, and turquoises from the diamonds and pearls. Among the diamonds we must place the productions of Mr. W. Hunt, which are all Koh-i-noors. The difference in value between his "Dead Chick" and "Study of a Mulatto's Head," will be decided by the choice of subject, for in point of excellence there is nothing to choose. In manipulatory skill these productions rival the choicest examples that have emanated from this artist's studio. The "Dead Chick" is one of a series of studies which this master is executing for Mr. Ruskin for presentation to our Schools of Art as models, not of imitation, but of ideal excellence, to show how the simplest and most unpromising subject in nature may become invested with an interest and a charm through faithful and literal representation. In the "Study of a Head" we have higher qualities, for the living model presented character and expression in addition to certain peculiarities of colour and texture, and these also the artist has rendered in the most perfect manner. In the "Dead Pigeon," and in the "Plums and Pine-Apple," and "Grapes, &c.," we find the very perfection of imitative art.

Among the diamonds, the public will assuredly class the productions of Mr. Birket Foster; brilliant and sparkling in the highest degree, microscopically minute in detail, yet not deficient in breadth. Marvellously delicate in the handling, judicious in composition, and skilful in the distribution of light and shade, this artist's works possess, in an eminent degree, those qualities which attract the multitude, and excite surprise and wonder by their display of a vast amount of painstaking. In our cold judgment this is labour lost, seeing that the same effect may be produced by other and legitimate means in which the mechanism of art is less apparent. Mr. Foster's works display such an intimate familiarity with the face of nature, they evidence so keen a perception of her most unobtrusive or hidden charms, that it is with something like a feeling of regret that we see him waste his powers upon the mere mechanism of art. He could render the poetical so delicately, that were this phase of art as readily appreciated as the material excellencies of a picture are recognized, we should have in Mr. Foster an artist *sui generis* in water-colour painting, unrivalled in oil-painting by any except Nasmyth. Mr. Foster's "manner" is evidently due to his long experience in drawing on wood for engraving. In this *specialité* he is not only unrivalled but unequalled. There, all the minuteness of detail, and the "sparkle" which he has infused into his water-colour pictures, are legitimate and essential, and it is by their skilful employment that his rare success in drawing on wood has been attained. But in water-colour painting this effect need not depend upon similar means, and we cannot but think it a radical error to apply the resources imperatively demanded by one branch of art to another which, already amply supplied,

stands in no need of them. The peculiar charm displayed in "Down Hill," and in "Burnham Beeches," however, extorts admiration from us, in spite of our better judgment.

In range of subjects the Exhibition is, as usual, very limited. Landscapes greatly predominate, and it is in this department of art that the greatest diversity of power and excellence is shown. Among the most striking and attractive of works of this class are the pictures of Mr. Alfred P. Newton. The scene of his labours lies chiefly in Italy. Mentone has lately acquired an unusual degree of interest by its annexation to France. Mr. Newton has done his best to show what kind of acquisition this is, in his "Gardens of the Prince of Monaco at Mentone." This picture displays great power and mastery of execution. It is a subject that makes unusual demands upon the most varied talent in the artist. Prominent in the foreground is one of those huge stone-pine trees in which Italy is so rich, spreading out its long massive branches and sombre foliage: this is very faithfully and vigorously rendered. Beyond the terrace upon which the pines flourish we see the orange groves with their yellow-green foliage, mingled with the more sombre olive; and beyond these, again, is the distant blue ocean, bordered with its purpled shores. There is the greatest variety of contrast, in form, in colour, and in light and shade, all skilfully blended in harmony. For such a subject, free and bold handling were specially demanded; it would be impossible to treat it in the manner adopted by Mr. Birket Foster; but, unfortunately, this picture is hung where the spectator cannot view it at a proper distance, and a proximity, which is favourable and even indispensable while examining works which excel in minute detail, becomes prejudicial to a work executed in the manner this work demanded. All praise is due to this work for its conscientious study and evident truthfulness.

Another view of "Mentone" is an early twilight scene, with sapphire sky and emerald waters, that look unreal to those unfamiliar with the shores of the Mediterranean; but which are no less true in local colour than the more sober hues in the same artist's "Sunset on a Highland Loch" (98). In the "Mentone," the sky is marvellously well painted. The effect represented, although of frequent occurrence, is very evanescent; too much so to be studied, but which must be seized at once by the artist's eye, and kept vividly in the memory by constant renewal. The difficulty of representing such atmospheric effects in this truthful manner is so great that success is evidence of the highest artistic capacity in the painter. It has been shown, that by the skilful employment of colour, a picture may be produced in which the element, *form*, is totally absent. A straight horizontal line across the canvas, which should represent the horizon separating sea and sky, being all that is required in the way of drawing; for the rest, the picture would have to depend upon the artist's treatment of sea and sky. Mr. Newton has almost exhibited this paradox in his picture, named "Light," which consists only of sea and sky; but as the sky is mottled with clouds and the ocean rippled with waves, the delineation of form is not effected by horizontal lines only. However, this study of "Light" shows that the artist has soared into cloudland to some purpose. The picture is hung so high above the head of the spectator, that it is utterly impossible to do justice to its apparent merits.

Mr. Newton, with that consciousness of power that unquestionably belongs to true genius, essays the most difficult phases of the ever-changing face of nature with a boldness that would be rashness in one less endowed with the attributes of mastery. The spirit in which he woos nature is earnest and devout; he watches her in her grand and solemn moods, and transcribes her poetry with true feeling and reverence. This sympathy with nature is a very different thing from the calm, passive, mirror-like reflection of the common aspects of nature to which most painters devote their talents; its rarity becomes greater year by year, and were it not for the ripe promise displayed in Mr. Newton's works we should almost despair of a worthy disciple upon whose shoulders the mantle of David Cox could be placed. Mr. Newton's pictures are most unfairly hung in this exhibition; they can be viewed only under the greatest disadvantages. In fact, No. 98, "Sunset," is in great danger of being overlooked altogether, as it is placed some twelve feet from the floor. It represents a Highland Loch (?); "the kindling azure, and the mountain's brow illum'd with fluid gold"—the wide rippled surface of water reflecting the pure ethereal sky above, tinted with delicate hues of violet and gold, and partly overshadowed into deep gloom by the mountain, from behind which the light rises in bold contrast, together with the rising of the grey evening mist—such are the materials of which this impressive picture is composed. But pictures of this class are not such as win popular favour, which is mostly reserved for those that display more material qualities.

Mr. E. A. Goodall has a charming poetical picture in "San Giorgio, Venice," a misty moonlight scene, marvellously well painted, and the more commendable considering the extreme difficulty that exists in rendering such a subject.

Mr. Walter Goodall has several excellent studies in his usual manner, but with evidences of even greater refinement than we are accustomed to meet with in his works. Their merits are so equally balanced that we scarcely know which to prefer.

The productions of Mr. S. P. Jackson display commendable signs of progress in the right direction. His works are distinguished by most careful drawing and admirable chiaroscuro, and are thoroughly pervaded with atmosphere. His "Lizard Lights" is a charming effect of colour, and contrasts favourably with his "St. Ives Bay and Pier," and "Lelant Ferry," which display his talent to great advantage. We admire the rich sunny tone that pervades Mr. T. M. Richardson's works no less than his effective composition. The "Breakwater Bonchurch" is among his best, although his Italian scenes are more pretentious.

To a certain class of artists the exhibition of their works in a miscellaneous collection is a positive injury. They suffer by juxtaposition with works painted on entirely different principles; their sober hues may be neutralized by the proximity of some gorgeous piece of colouring, which dazzling the eye unfits it for the appreciation of truth, modestly yet naturally expressed. In this category we may place the works of Mr. G. Dodgson, who, disregarding the meretricious aids by which most of his contemporaries seek to win popular favour, contents himself with truth in her homeliest guise. But simple earnest truth is a quality in art we prize most highly, and therefore we study the productions of this artist with reverence; in them we recognise an amount of conscientiousness and self-denial as commendable as it is rare. With that mastery over the essentials of his art displayed in "Sonning Churchyard," in "The Ferry Boat," and in "The Thames," it is evident that he could paint in as glowing colours as many of his contemporaries, but this would be to depart from nature, and to sacrifice that quality of truth which renders this artist's works so highly prized by the discriminating connoisseur. We may among other excellencies specially point out the sense of sultriness conveyed by the dappled cumulous clouds in the "Ferry Boat." This impress of the hour, as palpable as if shown by the dial, is a peculiar excellence in this artist's works; but to be duly appreciated it is indispensably necessary that they should be viewed apart.

There are many brilliant qualities in the works of Mr. Naftel, who has revelled in the chromatic splendours of Venice and other Italian sites. He displays a keen appreciation of local colour, and great skill in rendering it. At present a want of harmony in the distribution of light and shade interferes with our enjoy-

ment of his works; the eye finds no repose, but wanders over his pictures, vainly seeking for something upon which to dwell; there are too many centres of attraction. Yet it is very probable that this, which we regard as a defect, may, in the artist's estimation, be regarded as the chief merit of his works.

Almost every phase in the more recent manipulatory changes in the art is represented in this exhibition. Of David Cox or Copley Fielding we have now to mourn the absence, but the traditions of the palmy days of water-colour painting are kept alive in the works of Edward Duncan, J. D. Harding, and George Frapp.

In Mr. Duncan's view of "Shiplake, on the Thames" we have a passing shower, with a rainbow marvellously well painted. This rainbow is shown reflected in the water, to which certain critics object, as being impossible in nature. The artist protests he saw it as he has depicted it. Our experience does not enable us to pronounce decisively upon this nice point; we might enter into the question from a scientific, or rather a theoretical point of view, but prefer to leave it an open question.

Mr. Carl Haag has several pictures of rare merit, displaying greatly diversified talent. We give the preference to "The Rehearsal, Cairo," a group of Egyptian musicians, which displays great ability, both in the grouping and in the individual expression of the five figures of which it is composed. His view of "The Acropolis of Athens" cannot be regarded as a great success. The buildings are illuminated with the lurid light of a setting sun, and the impression conveyed is not that intended by the artist: it appears as if the rocks and stones were composed of Sienna marble, rather than of a lighter coloured material tinged with the red rays of the setting sun. This artist is seen to much greater advantage in the "Gate of Justice, Jerusalem."

Mr. George A. Frapp exhibits several carefully studied works, distinguished for their quiet character in composition and truthfulness in atmosphere. Mr. C. Davidson contributes several pictures of that special aspect of nature by which he made himself conspicuous, but as he constantly repeats himself without showing any signs of progress, his works lack their former interest. Mr. Rosenberg exhibits some interesting scenes from a less hackneyed region than those usually explored by artists. His "Trolldindine, Witches' Peak," in Romsdal, Norway, displays commendable evidence of faithful study.

In figure subjects Mr. Topham presents us with a fine specimen of his peculiarly graceful style of treatment in "The Angel's Whisper," in illustration of Mr. Samuel Lover's well-known song. Mr. John Gilbert has a fine study of a "Roman Bagpiper," backed by a sky that is anything but Roman. His "Hastings arrested in the Council Chamber" is very dramatically rendered, and effective in the colouring. His most pretentious and least satisfactory work is the "Return of the Expedition." Far better in conception and treatment is "Sir Hugh Evans examining young Page in his Accident," yet it strikes us he has made the actors unnecessarily coarse and vulgar.

Mr. Jenkins has several very brilliant pictures, particularly that of "Watteau Sketching;" the composition is very effective, the colouring rich, the *motif* charming. "Shades of Evening," is a country girl sitting in an attitude of deep grief by the roadside. There is a fine poetical feeling in this picture, which is greatly heightened by the colouring.

Among Mr. Alfred D. Tripp's works, the most successful is a group of peasants, "Passing the shrine of the Madonna," but probably the most popular will be his "Young England;" representing a fisher-boy standing on a rock, backed by the white cliffs that make England Albion.

"A.D. 1666, The Old Ironsides," by Mr. Frederick Burton, represents a grey-haired Puritan pausing while studying the Bible, as if to revolve a text in his mind. This is a very excellent and masterly production, full of life and appropriate expression; it is quite capable of sustaining a comparison with Mr. Hunt's head of a mulatto, which is in close proximity.

The pictures exhibited by Mr. Samuel Read display the highest resources of his art. They are perfect in chiaroscuro, rich in colour, and possess all the solidity of oil-painting. "The interior of the Dom-Munster, Westphalia," the Chapel in the "Church of St. Paul, Antwerp," and the "High Altar in the Church of St. Augustine," are perfect examples of architectural interior painting; they may worthily occupy a place beside the best pictures of David Roberts.

This is the Society's Fifty-seventh Exhibition, and during the period of its existence, the art of water-colour painting has gone through many phases, involving completely radical changes. The "stained drawings" of its early existence have now no representatives; and even what is regarded as legitimate water-colour painting has of late years been invaded by the adepts in "body colours." Although the art has gained immensely in power by the substitution of solid pigments for "washes," many connoisseurs are disposed to refuse to class among the former the works painted on the new system. But this refusal is unwise, because it is unwise to limit the resources of art in any way. Art must ever be progressive; the tempera painting of the ancients gave way before the superior resources presented by oil painting; and if the resources of water-colour painting are extended by the use of body colours, this use is quite legitimate.

The difference between oil-paintings and pictures printed in body-colours may be very trifling; may consist in nothing but the difference in the vehicle or medium with which the pigment is mixed, but as in all cases the artist's aim is to produce the truest effect with the means at his command, if he can produce it better with body-colours than by any other means, we should applaud the innovation rather than seek to repress it. Girtin and Turner's innovations upon the system of stained drawings were not less radical than that of late years introduced by the adoption of body-colours; and so manifest are the advantages presented by the latter, that, doubtless, in process of time pictures so painted will have the preference of the majority. Works executed in the solid manner manifested by so many productions in this exhibition, it would be absurd to style drawings, they are to all intents and purposes paintings; as much so as those forming a collection of works in oil.

In point of manipulative excellence, the works in this year's Exhibition leave nothing to be desired, and the character of the collection is, upon the whole, satisfactory; for if no great progress or innovation is evident, there is no retrograde movement visible. There is less conventionality than in former years, and if the inspiration that has called forth these pictures come, for the most part, from without rather than from within, the fault lies as much with the public as with the artists. The atmosphere of art seems thoroughly subdued to the quiet insipid tone that now prevails in "good society." Not a picture is there in the Exhibition that ruffles the equanimity of the most morbidly sensitive. Vigour of thought displayed in the choice of subject there is little or none. Burly peasant boys and happy milkmaids, with a sprinkling of Irish and Scotch rustics, are the chief denizens of the art world. The milkmaids all look happy, the ploughboys are all well-fed and sturdy. To the wondering eyes of foreigners these painted types of our peasantry are looked upon with wondering amazement, and they sagely conclude that even Dorsetshire labourers could not look so plump unless fed upon the "roast beef of Old England." Happy delusion; which it seems to be the peculiar province of the artist to perpetuate.

MUSIC.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

THE early production of Rossini's "Guillaume Tell" was a great feature in Mr. Gye's prospectus of the season. The Opera had been several times announced for performance, but was postponed, owing to the prolonged indisposition of M. Faure, who takes the part of the hero in the interesting drama. The first representation did, however, take place on Tuesday last, before one of the largest audiences ever congregated within the walls of this great lyrical establishment. Before entering into the merits of the music and the performance, a few words about the composer and his *chef d'œuvre* may not be out of place.

It has been remarked of Rossini, that he has made of Italian music an universal language. Perhaps with more justice it might be said, that he has made it a favourite language. Italian music was universally known and admired long before Rossini was known. Stradella, Cimarosa, Paisiello, Paër, Scarlatti, Cherubini, and Spontini, are all familiar and great names in the Italian school; but it was reserved for Rossini to bring their combined excellencies home to every heart. He has treated with equal felicity the most exalted, as well as the most simple subjects; interpreting with singular truthfulness all the passions and emotions which fill the human breast. His extraordinary genius presents itself in a still stronger light, when we remember that, unlike other great musicians who have spent their lives in long study and reflection, Rossini was almost entirely self-taught, deriving his inspirations more from musical instinct than from education or example. So great, indeed, was his craving to write, that one day, being taken to task for his laziness, he asked his master, Matei, whether he did not know enough to compose an Opera, whereupon the latter answered: "Yes, certainly; but a musician who wants to know all the resources of his art, and to write in all styles, must learn more than you know."

Yet this is the man who, in the space of one year, from 1816-17, composed four Operas, each of which would have sufficed to make a reputation, viz.: Il Barbiere, Otello, La Cenerentola, and La Gazza Ladra; and of whom an enthusiastic author even ventured to say that "he has touched the antipodes of the creation." In "Guillaume Tell" he has sung the earth, with its joys, its loves, sorrows, triumphs, light and darkness; while in "Moise" he has sung heaven, with its ecstasies, miracles, victories, and mysteries." To dwell upon all the characteristics of his great genius, or to follow the different phases in his glorious career, would fill volumes. We can only speak at present of "Guillaume Tell," the richest gem in his diadem, but also the last song of the "Swan of Pesaro." The fate that often awaits the best works of great composers, even of a Mozart or a Beethoven, was, it seems, also shared by Rossini. Both "Guillaume Tell" and "Le Comte Ory," produced in the years 1828 and 1829 at the Grand Opera, met in the outset with a very cold reception, not so much on account of the music as of the plot, which, particularly in "Guillaume Tell," was considered too uninteresting and badly constructed. Though it kept the stage for some time, it never became a favourite and popular opera until many years later, when the celebrated tenor, Duprez, made the part of Arnold famous by his splendid singing, his fine declamation, and the coveted and costly "ut de poitrine." The original representatives of the principal parts in the opera were Madame Cinti-Damoreau, Adolphe Nourrit, Levasseur, and Prevost. Rossini, like Meyerbeer, entirely changed his style on changing the scene of his activity. In "Guillaume Tell" we clearly perceive the influence which the French language, style, and manners exercised upon the mind of the composer. The score of this opera combines all the high qualities that characterize Rossini's dramatic creations; but it is distinguished from his other operas by a more elaborate and brilliant instrumentation, a profound knowledge of all the resources of his art, grandeur of conception, and masterly treatment of the recitatives. The indifference with which this great work was received, left, however, a sting in the heart of the composer from which he never recovered. The day after its first representation he threw down the pen in disgust, and ceased to write for the stage when he was only thirty-seven years of age. In 1836 he left France and returned to his "dolce ingrata patria," where he remained until very recently, when he once more betook himself to the French capital, to the great delight of his numerous friends and admirers. He has, however, turned a deaf ear to the entreaties of artists, editors, dilettanti, and other influential people, to strike again his melodious lyre. The book of his inspirations remains closed; but the name of Gioacchino Rossini is inscribed in the imperishable book of fame, with the names of those who, by their genius, have shed lustre on the land of Dante, Raphael, and Michael Angelo.

Several years have elapsed since "Guillaume Tell" was first brought out at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden. The great sensation it then produced, and the circumstances which prevented its further performance, are too fresh in the memory of most of our readers to need comment. The care and liberality which marked its first production were also bestowed upon its revival at the new house. Nothing can possibly surpass the splendour and completeness of the "mise en scène," including decorations, costumes, and scenic effects. Although all the parts in the Opera are of more or less importance, it requires artists of the first order to do justice to the principal characters. Signor Tamberlik and M. Faure were, we may add, well qualified for their arduous tasks. The rôle of Matilda demands likewise an accomplished singer, though the part itself possesses no great dramatic depth. On this occasion it fell to the share of Madame Miolan-Carvalho. The other parts were sustained by Herr Formes (Walter), Signor Polonini (Melchthal), Signor Neri Baraldi (un pescatore), Signor Tagliafico (Gessler), Madame Tagliafico (Tell's wife), and Madame Rudersdorf (Tell's son). Whatever M. Faure undertakes, he does intelligently and well. Nothing is overlooked; every point is carefully studied and brought out. He goes no further; and is invariably the same. In his singing, too, we have the same merits and the same defects. He is always correct, never inspired. The scene where Tell is condemned to shoot the apple from his son's head was, however, extremely well sung and acted by M. Faure, and produced a great impression. Few tenors are favoured by nature with sufficient physical strength to go through the part of Arnold with sustained effect. They mostly shine during the two first, but are totally eclipsed in the two last acts. Signor Tamberlik, however, reverses the rule. Like a practised and experienced artist, he begins with prudence, nay diffidence; warms with the music and the situation, and ends in a triumph. The beautiful aria, "O Matilda," in the first act, was injured by the extreme tremulousness of his voice; but the great tenor took his "revanche" in all the music which is allotted to him in the other acts. A finer and more eloquent piece of declamation than we have in the words, "voi parlate di patria," where Tell taunts Arnold with want of patriotism, or more beautiful singing than that which occurs in the exquisite and dramatic trio, "Troncar Luvi di," it would be difficult to instance.

"Coriam voliam," the stumbling-block of other tenors, proved the triumph of Signor Tamberlik. His "ut de poitrine" put all other "uts" of all other singers completely in the shade, and fly through the house like so many rockets. If, as we said before, these vocal dainties are as choice as they are costly, Signor Tamberlik, at any rate, cannot be accused of any want of liberality. The oftener we hear Madame Miolan-Carvalho the more we are strengthened in our opinion that she is not at home in the lofty sphere of the lyrical drama. We must confess, her assumption of the part of Matilda disappointed us very much.

Her first air, "Selva opaca," better known as "Sombres forêts," wants both style and ease. Her cadences are not in keeping with the music; while her intonation is by no means irreproachable. The duet with Arnold, and the "aria di bravura" at the opening of the third act, are open to the same criticism. Madame Miolan is evidently hampered by the Italian language, which she has not sufficiently mastered to express the meaning of the author and the composer, neither is her acting marked by more than ordinary capacity. It is, in most instances, without grace and without purpose. We must speak briefly upon the rest of the performers. Madame Rudersdorf deserves commendation for her artistic treatment of the small part of Jemmy (Tell's son), also Signor Neri Baraldi and Tagliafico for their praiseworthy efforts. Herr Formes by no means appeared to such advantage. By far the most successful part of the performance consisted in the excellence of the orchestra and chorus, which in the two glorious finales left nothing to be desired. The splendid overture was dashed off with the utmost brilliancy and speed, and of course "encored" with increased effect and increased speed. The gallant band, however, rushed to the charge like the heroes at Balaklava, and blindly obeyed the command. We could not help recalling the memorable words: "c'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre." With equal truth it might be said: it was magnificent, but it was not music Mr. Costa conducted.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE conservative principle is in the arts certainly a good one; but it has this disadvantage in music: it extinguishes the enthusiasm which new works, or works rarely heard, produce upon perhaps less classical, but more impartial audiences. Mendelssohn's interesting and genial symphony in C minor, written at the age of fifteen, and Beethoven's fine overture in C major, like the former, composed for the Philharmonic Society, were both received with the greatest apathy, if not coldness. This is the more surprising when we find that the execution of these masterpieces was quite worthy of the music. It may be, that visible demonstrations of approval are considered out of fashion; but when we remember that a great part of the subscribers are of more than a quarter of a century's standing, we do not think that the false notions of "bon ton" can interfere with their appreciation of the beautiful. The only applause of which this hypercritical public was guilty, fell to the share of the solo performers, viz.: Herr Ludwig Strauß, who played Molique's violin concerto in A minor, and Mr. Alexander Rowland, who executed Mayseder's violin solo on the contrabasso. Both the German and the Englishman fully deserved their success. Herr Strauß is a first-rate artist, and a great violin player. He had already given proofs of this talent at the Musical Union and the Monday Popular Concerts last season, but on this occasion he achieved what few could accomplish. Not only does he possess taste, style, true intonation, and a fine tone, but his mechanism is so perfect, that he conquered the extraordinary difficulties which abound in Herr Molique's beautiful concerto with the greatest ease. We shall be glad to hear Herr Strauß in other classical compositions. Mr. Rowland's choice of music was not exactly classical, but his playing on the "big fiddle" was certainly wonderful. Indeed, after Signor Bottesini he has no superior. He "roars like a lion" and "sings like a nightingale." Signor Gardoni, since his secession from the Royal Italian Opera, is almost more often heard in the concert-room than on the stage, a proof how valuable are his services as a concert singer.

The lovely aria "Un' aura Amorosa," from Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," and a duet of Rossini, "Le Comte Ory," with Miss Augusta Thomson, were given with much taste and finish; but a little more warmth would, we think, have been acceptable. The usual atmosphere of the Philharmonic is, however, so freezing that it affects, it would seem, even the singer. Miss Thomson, in Spohr's difficult scena, from "Jessonda," and in the duet with Signor Gardoni, gave signs of much progress. We would advise the clever and promising vocalist to study still more the art of distinct enunciation, the great quality of the Italian school of singing. As a pupil of the Parisian "Conservatoire" Miss Thomson is, no doubt, aware that even the French singers are famous for their clear pronunciation. Their romances are more spoken than sung. We have only to add, that Beethoven's symphony No. 8, and Cherubini's splendid prelude to "Anacreon," went off exceedingly well and were admirably conducted by Professor Sterndale Bennett.

M. SAINTON'S CHAMBER CONCERTS.

In proportion as the taste and demand for classical chamber music increases, so, we think, does the pleasure we derive from it diminish. On a former occasion we have spoken at some length of the objections to which quartett performances in the larger halls are exposed. We are still of opinion that the character of that class of music is sufficiently indicated by its title. How is it possible, indeed, for three or four stringed instruments, even when assisted by the pianoforte, to produce the desired effect in buildings which are constructed and designed for the most complete orchestral and choral performances? We know how exceptional are the exigencies for the successful rendering of chamber compositions. The nicest precision as to light and shade, the utmost delicacy of phrasing and bowing, the harmonious blending of the various instruments, are all so many laws in the art of quartett playing, which can scarcely be obeyed in rooms of large dimensions, where these very features almost degenerate into defects. It was, therefore, with unfeigned pleasure that we hailed the announcement of M. Sainton's intention of giving a series of four Chamber Concerts at his own residence, the first of which came off on Wednesday evening last. The artists in these performances are, besides M. Sainton, Messrs. Bezeth, Doyle, Webb, Piatti, Paque, and Hallé. An eminent vocalist appears on each occasion.

Few men in the musical world occupy a more enviable position than M. Sainton. In spite of the most formidable competition, he has maintained his well-earned reputation as one of the greatest violinists of the day; while his personal qualities have won for him the esteem and friendship of all who have the honour of his acquaintance. We were not surprised, therefore, to find his elegant salons filled with a numerous and discriminating audience, who by their frequent and hearty applause testified how thoroughly his great merits are appreciated.

The programme of the evening was unexceptionably good, and well adapted to the talent of the various performers. Spohr's quartett in E minor, Op. 45, though rarely played, is one of his most exquisite chamber compositions, full of graceful melody, rich harmonies, and instrumental effects. It is not what the composer calls a "quatuor brillant," but the qualities of the four instruments are, nevertheless, most brilliantly displayed. Beethoven's great quartett in C (No. 79), dedicated to Rosoumoffsky, on the other hand, afforded M. Sainton full scope to exhibit his fine tone, breadth of style, vigorous execution, and artistic reading. In both works did the accomplished performers with whom he was associated come up to the excellence of the music. The sonata by Robert Schumann (first time of performance), played by Messrs. Hallé and Sainton, must be heard more often to be fully appreciated. As far as we could judge, the andante and last movement appear to be the best, being new in idea and clear in treatment. The allegro, however, partakes slightly of Schumann's manner, original, but somewhat vague. The quartetts were relieved by two pieces for the pianoforte, solo (Wanderstünden, No. 2, and a Tarantella), by Stephen Heller, of which the last pleased us

most. Both were, however, given to perfection. The last number in the programme was a new violin solo, composed and executed by M. Sainton, called "Un Souvenir." All we can say, judging by the impression it produced upon the audience, is that the "Souvenir" of the composer must have been singularly happy, and left traces in his heart, which his music most feelingly echoes.

To Miss Banks was entrusted the vocal music. Both the "Song of the Quail," by Beethoven, and Dussek's "Name the Glad Day," are peculiarly suited to her voice and talent, and were highly successful. Mr. Cusins officiated as conductor, and acquitted himself of his task most efficiently.

NECROLOGY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR H. WILLIAMSON, BART.

On Wednesday, the 24th ult., at Whitburn Hall, near Sunderland, aged 63, Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart. He was the eldest son of the late Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., of Whitburn Hall, by Maria, daughter of the late Sir James Hamilton, Knight, of co. Monaghan, Ireland. He was born in 1797, and succeeded to the title on his father's death in 1810. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1819. The worthy baronet, who was much beloved and respected in his native county, was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for co. Durham, and represented Sunderland, in the moderate liberal interest, in the last Parliament of King William IV., and served the office of Mayor of that borough in 1841-42, and again in 1847-48. He married in 1826 the Hon. Anne Elizabeth Liddell, third daughter of Thomas Henry, first Lord Ravensworth, by whom he had issue four sons. His eldest son, Hedworth, who now succeeds as eighth baronet, was born in 1827. He is a Deputy-Lieutenant for co. Durham, and was appointed Attaché at St. Petersburg in 1848, and transferred thence to Paris in 1850.



C. HELSBY, ESQ.

On Sunday, the 24th ult., at Knob Hall, Cheshire, aged 42, Charles Helsby, Esq. He was the youngest of the seven sons of the late Thomas Helsby, Esq., of Gatacre, co. Lancaster; and great grandson of John Helsby, Esq., of Helsby, co. Chester, a friend of the celebrated William Penn, whose cause he ardently espoused and supported with the greater part of his fortune. The late Mr. Helsby was married to Mary, daughter of Mr. Pattenson, of the county of Cumberland, and niece of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Richard Helsby, of Baguley Lodge, co. Chester; he was twentieth in descent from Sir Jocelino de Hellesby, Knt., Lord of Hellesby and Sheriff of Cheshire, temp. King John, and whose descendants in the collateral line remained seated at Helsby and Acton down to the time of Charles II. (in the support of whose father they suffered severely in estate), when Randolph Helsby, father of the before-mentioned John Helsby, removed to Kingsley, in the same county, and subsequently resided at Kingsley Hall, after the sale of that mansion and the township by the ancient family of Rutter, in whose possession they had been for about five centuries. The ancient house of Helsby is connected by marriage with the greater number of the old Cheshire houses, and quarters amongst others the arms of Hatton of Hatton, ancestor of the celebrated Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Keeper, temp. Elizabeth.



CAPT. TAAFFE.

On Sunday, the 24th March, on board the transport ship, *MacDuff*, homeward bound from China, aged 34, Capt. George Taaffe, of Her Majesty's Royal Regiment. He was the second son of the late George Taaffe, Esq., of Smarmore Castle, county of Louth, Ireland, by Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Randall McDonnell, Esq., of Dublin, and was born in 1826. He entered the army in 1845, and attained the rank of Captain in December, 1854. The Taaffes, of Smarmore Castle, like the rest of the house, are staunch Roman Catholics, and represent a branch of the family of Viscount Taaffe in the Peerage of Ireland, being sprung from Peter Taaffe, Esq., of Pepparstown and Dromine, co. Louth, brother of Sir William Taaffe, who was ancestor of the 1st Viscount, and of the Taaffes of Harristown.



BISHOP DEALTRY.

On Monday, March 4th, in India, aged 65, the Right Rev. John Thomas Dealtry, D.D., Lord Bishop of that see. He was a son of the late James Dealtry, Esq., and nephew of the late Ven. Archdeacon Dealtry, Rector of Clapham, Surrey, and was born in 1795. He claimed descent from the ancient family of Dealtry, of Loft House Hall, near Wakefield, co. York. According to Crockford's *Clerical Directory* he was educated at Catherine Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated as first class in the Law Tripos and LL.B. in 1828. Having proceeded to India in 1835 he was appointed Archdeacon of Calcutta by the late Bishop Daniel Wilson, and held that office until 1849, when he was consecrated to the See of Madras, then vacant by the resignation of Bishop Spencer. His diocese extended over the entire Presidency of Madras, and formerly included the island of Ceylon, until the latter was erected into a separate bishopric in 1844, when the Right Rev. Dr. J. Chapman was consecrated Bishop of Colombo. The late Bishop, according to the *Clerical Directory*, had under him 131 clergymen, and the gross income of his see was £2,500 a year, paid by H. M. East India Government. In 1846 Bishop Dealtry had conferred on him from Lambeth the

degree of D.D. He was twice married; first, in 1819, to a daughter of H. S. Maw, Esq., of Bellevue, Doncaster; and, second, in 1824, to a daughter of John Sedger, Esq., of London. His character is thus drawn by a writer in the *Bombay Times*:—

"This bereavement, not only of the Episcopal but of the Catholic Church of Christ in the proper sense of the term, will be deeply felt, not only in this country but in Europe, where the departed was well known, cordially esteemed, and greatly beloved. As a chaplain on the Bengal establishment, which he joined about thirty-two years ago, he was a most efficient minister, and a worthy successor of the Buchanans, and Martyns, and Thomasons, and Browns, and Corries, who in their day and generation did so much for the revival and maintenance of Christianity among the British in India, and for the countenance of the missionary enterprise when it did not occupy that high place in the public regard to which of late years it has happily attained. In the bishopric of Calcutta he was long the friend, adviser, and companion of Dr. Daniel Wilson, who needed his sound judgment and experience to assist his ardent zeal. His exaltation to the see of Madras was the consequence of the warm regard entertained for him by Bishop Wilson; and the result was all that could be expected or desired. In the Southern Presidency, Dr. Dealtry was not only a moderating but an impulsive agency in all that is good. He was not only a considerable restraint on individual anti-Protestant tendencies, but an acknowledged power in all Evangelistic enterprises, whether conducted within or without the Church of England. His influence was used with humility and modesty, but it was not the less effective on this account. It originated mainly in his devoted piety and sound judgment; and it continued and expanded without the accessories either of high talent or profound learning. It extended to all classes of the Christian community, European and native, official and non-official, in whose estimation he was constantly rising till the day of his death."

N. UNIACKE, ESQ.

On Friday, the 19th ult., at Mount Uniacke, co. Cork, aged 64, Norman Uniacke, Esq., of that place. He was the only son of the late James Fitzgerald Uniacke, Esq., of Mount Uniacke, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of — Higgins, Esq. He was born in 1796, and married, in 1821, Eleanor, daughter of William Lax, Esq., of Backwell, Somerset, by whom he had issue two daughters and four sons, of whom the eldest is Mr. Norman James Uniacke, an officer in the Denbighshire cavalry. He was married, in 1844, to Mary, daughter of Colonel Drinkwater Bethune, of Balfour House, Fifeshire, and has issue a son, Norman Fitzgerald. According to



Sir Bernard Burke's "Landed Gentry"—

"The ancient family of Uniacke of Mount Uniacke, whose original name was Fitzgerald (descended from the Desmond branch of the great Geraldine family), went to Ireland about the close of the 12th century. The name, a singular one, arose, according to an ancient tradition, from the following circumstance:—In the skirmishes which were constantly taking place between the rival houses of Fitzgerald and Butler, a service attended by great danger becoming necessary to be done, and the commander hesitating whom to employ, an individual was pointed out and recommended to him, with this remark—*Unicus est*, meaning—he is the only person to undertake this service. These two words were used as the family motto until the period of the Battle of the Boyne. In that memorable conflict, James Fitzgerald Uniacke, of Coolegaragh, since called Mount Uniacke, commanded a troop of cavalry, and being present when King William's horse was shot, dismounted and offered his own to the King, who, accepting it, called him a faithful and true man, and taking a pistol from his holster, said—'Let that be your crest for evermore.' The family crest, previous to this, was a dexter armed arm, gauntleted, holding a hawk's lure; but James Fitzgerald Uniacke and his descendants have since used the motto—'Faithful and Brave,'—and taken for their crest a dexter arm in armour, holding a pistol. It appears, by the ancient public records (adds Sir Bernard), that the family of Uniacke was settled at an early period in the South of Ireland, and had large possessions in the counties of Cork, Waterford, and Tipperary."

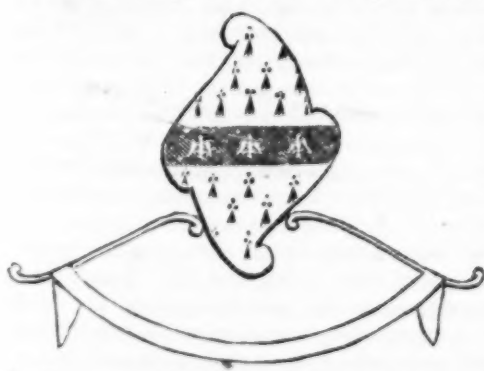
MISS RICHARDSON-CURRER.

On Sunday, the 28th ult., at Eshton Hall, in Craven, near Gargrave, Yorkshire, aged 76, Miss Richardson-Currer. The deceased, who was a lady of large wealth and ancient family, was Frances Mary, only daughter and heir of the late Rev. Henry Richardson, Rector of Thornton, in Craven, Yorkshire, who shortly before his death assumed the additional name of Currer, on inheriting the Kildwick estates in that county, and died in 1784, the year of his daughter's birth. Her mother was the only daughter of Mathew Wilson, Esq., of Eshton Hall, by his wife, Frances, daughter of Richard Clive, Esq., of Styche, co. Salop. The deceased lady was the last representative of the two ancient families of Richardson and Currer, the latter of whom have been settled at Kildwick for about three centuries.



MISS WINN.

On Thursday, the 25th ult., at Nostall Priory, Yorkshire, the seat of her brother, Charles Winn, Esq., aged 61, Miss Louisa Winn. She was the only daughter of the late John Williamson, Esq., by Esther, only daughter of Sir Rowland Winn, fifth baronet, and sister of Sir Rowland Winn, sixth baronet, of Nostall Priory, who dying intestate and unmarried in 1805, the family estates passed to his nephew, the late John Williamson-Winn, Esq. (on whose death, in 1817, they were inherited by his brother, the present Charles Winn, Esq.), while the baronetcy was merged in the superior title of Lord Headley.



SIR J. C. ANDERSON, BART.

On Thursday, the 4th ult., in London, aged 68, Sir James Caleb Anderson, Bart., late of Buttevant Castle, co. Cork. He was the elder son of the late John Anderson, Esq., of Fermoy, co. Cork, who not only made the fortune of that town, but mainly introduced the mail coach system into the south of Ireland, and rendered great services to the Government at the time when the French landed in Bantry Bay; he also gave to the nation, without charge, forty acres of land on his estate at Fermoy and Buttevant, for the erection of barracks, for which he never received any recompense. His son, the late baronet, was born in 1792, and

raised to the title in 1813. He married the half-sister of Sir Robert Shaw, Bart., of Bushey Park, co. Dublin, by whom he had issue six daughters. His only sister was married, in 1814, to General Sir Richard England, G.C.B., but died in 1840.

CAPTAIN MACDONELL.

On Tuesday, the 23rd inst., at Loriston House, Kincardineshire, John MacDonell, Esq., Captain Royal Navy. According to O'Byrne, he entered the navy in 1811, and served with distinction on the Mediterranean, home, and Newfoundland stations. In 1837-8 he was Lieutenant in the *Royal George* yacht, under Captain Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, and from 1841 to 1846 officiated as second captain of the *Malabar* (Captain Sir G. R. Sartorius) on the Mediterranean station. He retired on half-pay soon after attaining the rank of Captain in 1846.

C. SHEPPARD, ESQ.

On the 7th instant, at Chelsea, aged 55, Charles Down Sheppard, Esq., of Willington, Sussex. He was the second son of the late Thomas Sheppard, Esq., of Folkington-place, Sussex (many years M.P. for the borough of Frome), by Sarah, second daughter of the late Richard Down, Esq., of Halliwick Manor, Colney Hatch, Middlesex. He was born in 1805. He was brother of the present Mr. Sheppard, of Folkington, and of Mr. Walter C. Sheppard, of Shrewton, Wilts.

CAPTAIN PALMER.

On Tuesday, the 2nd instant, at Sidmouth, aged 40, John Jervis Palmer, Esq., Commander in the Royal Navy. He was the eldest son of the late Captain Edmund Palmer, R.N., C.B., and Henrietta, youngest daughter of the late Captain William Henry Jervis, R.N. According to O'Byrne, he passed his examination in 1840, and served with distinction in China in 1842. He became Lieutenant in 1843, and subsequently served on the East Indian and Mediterranean stations. In 1847 he was appointed to the acting command of the *Mutine* (12). His death was occasioned by decline.

E. N. BERKELEY PORTMAN, ESQ.

On Sunday, the 3rd of February, at Victoria, British Columbia, suddenly, of congestion of the brain, aged 25, Edward Napier Berkeley Portman, Esq. He was the eldest son of Major Henry Wm. Berkeley Portman, of Dean's Court, Dorset (next brother of the Right Hon. Lord Portman), by Harriet Emily, second daughter of T. L. Napier Sturt, Esq., and cousin of H. C. Sturt, Esq., of Critchill, Dorset.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

Sir William Henry Clerke, Bart., of Heath House, near Ashton, Salop, formerly of Mertyn, Flintshire, who died on the 16th of February last at the age of 67, executed his will so long since as the year 1842, appointing as executors his brothers, the Venerable Archdeacon Clerke, Canon of Christchurch, Oxford, and the Rev. Francis Clerke (since deceased). Probate was granted by the London Court on the 22nd ult. Sir William held the army rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and was one of those gallant veteran officers who served during the campaign in the Peninsula, and was present at the memorable battle of Waterloo. It has been our painful duty to record the wills of those military heroes whose ranks are fast thinning, as very short intervals occur without our having occasion to call public attention to their testamentary documents. The testator is of very ancient family and descent, his ancestor, Sir John Clerke, Knt., having taken prisoner, in 1514, with his own hand, Louis d'Orleans, at Borny, near Terrouenne, and was most probably knighted for this service. The family were further promoted to a baronetcy at the restoration in 1660. Sir William Clerke's will is brief, and the bequests simply confined to the members of his family, bequeathing to his wife a life interest in the personal property, but giving to her the jewellery and certain other articles and effects absolutely. His eldest son, the present baronet, inherits the family estate and shares in the residue with the late Colonel's other children. For a brief notice of Colonel Clerke, see this Journal, 23rd Feb. last.

Major-General Robert Blake Lynch, of Her Majesty's Army, who died at Brussels on the 13th of March last, at the Hotel de la Régence, had executed his will so long since as the 1st of December, 1845, which was attested by Commander Walter Kirby, R.N., and Alexander Aitkens, Esq., Justice of the Peace, Fifeshire. This military officer is very respectably connected, he has reposed on his laurels by being unattached and on half-pay for a lengthened period. The gallant General appears to have located himself at Brussels, and his relict, to whom he has left all his property of every kind, and nominated sole executrix, administered thereto before Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Brussels on the 15th of last month, and the official seal of that government was affixed to the will, and probate thereof granted by the London Court to Mrs. Lynch, the relict. There is a peculiarity respecting the signing of the will by the testator. He uses the following terms, "signed in the usual way Robt. B. Lynch." He was at that period Lieutenant-Colonel, and attained the rank of Major-General in 1855.

Charles Bague, Esq., of Coleshill-street, Eaton-square, died on the 23rd March last, at his residence, having made his will on the 8th of January, 1857, which was proved in the principal registry in London, by his two daughters, Eliza Frances Bague and Helen Bague, the surviving executrices. This gentleman has left his property, both real and personal, to his wife for her life, and upon her decease it is to devolve to his two surviving daughters, share and share alike, there are no other bequests mentioned in the will, which is exceedingly brief.

Dowager Lady Clifton, of Bruton-street, relict of Sir Jukes Granville Jukes Clifton, Bart., of Clifton Hall, near Nottingham, made her will in December, 1859, which was proved in the London Court on the 22nd ult. by the executors, the Rev. C. T. C. Luxmore, of Guilsfield, co. Montgomery, and the Rev. Morgan Davies, M.A., Hon. Canon of St. Asaph, Rural Dean, Rector of Llanrwst, Denbigh, and Chaplain to the Bishop of St. Asaph. The personality was sworn under £25,000. The family of Clifton are of very ancient descent, having located at Clifton from the period of the reign of Edward I. The will of this lady contains various bequests, and some of them are expressed with much minuteness. Her ladyship was the second wife of the late baronet, and has left two children, a son and a daughter, and the property, subject to some legacies to relatives, friends, her executors, and servants, is directed to be placed in trust for their benefit, and to descend to their issue. Her ladyship has bequeathed to her daughter, who is the wife of Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, Bart., her jewellery,

and that portion of her gold and silver plate, with the impress of the arms of Treleydon, to which is added a presentation piece of plate, given to Lady Clifton, the testatrix, by the parishioners of Clifton, as a token of respect. The picture of our Saviour, brought from Sebastopol by Colonel Edmund Peel, she has also left to her daughter, as well as several other articles. There are five portraits which she has specially directed, as well as some other effects, to descend as heir-looms to the family.

Charles Warde, Esq., of Squerries Court, Westerham, Kent, died 14th February last, aged 74, made his will on the 8th of January preceding, and therein appointed his sister, Mrs. K. A. St. John Mildmay, sole executrix, to whom probate was granted by the London Court on the 17th ultimo. The personal property was sworn under £14,000. This gentleman was well connected, and mixed much with the higher classes. He was a bachelor, and has left all his property, both real and personal, to his sister, Mrs. Mildmay, widow, for her sole and absolute use. Mr. Warde succeeded to the estate on which he resided on the death of his uncle, in December, 1838. He served the office of Deputy-Lieutenant for Kent, for which county he was also a magistrate.

Colonel Sir George Couper, Bart., C.B., K.H., of Frogmore, near Windsor, and of Lowndes-square, Knightsbridge, died on the 28th of February last, aged 72. The Colonel devoted himself early in life to the profession of arms, and equally early was appointed aide-de-camp successively to three most distinguished generals who commanded during the late Peninsular war: and at Waterloo. Colonel Couper was one of the attesting witnesses to the late Duchess of Kent's will, and was Her Royal Highness's Principal Equerry, and Comptroller of her household, which post he occupied from the period of the retirement of the late Sir John Conroy. Sir George executed his will on the 11th of July, 1853, appointing his relict, Elizabeth Lady Couper, sole executrix, to whom probate was granted by the London Court on the 20th of last month. The personalty was sworn under £50,000. The testamentary document is very short, and is merely confined to the single bequest of bestowing the whole of his property, both real and personal, upon his relict, Lady Couper, for her sole and absolute use. The attesting witnesses are Malcolm Laing, Esq., Devonshire-place, Portland-place, and A. Dobie, Esq., Solicitor, Lancaster-place, Strand. For a memoir of Colonel Couper see THE LONDON REVIEW of the 9th March last.

Reviews of Books.

LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU.*

NOTHING is more noticeable in the historical and biographical studies of the present day than their different readings of various characters long since catalogued and niched by public opinion. Richard III. was a gallant gentleman, a trifle hard, but by no means so crooked or so black as he has been represented; Henry VIII. was a fine-hearted, generous, open-handed prince, full of lusty manhood a shade over ripe perhaps, but gracious and desirable still—patient, forgiving, long-suffering—in no respect a cruel husband, and not the least of a British Bluebeard—but a chaste self-governed man, frightfully sinned against by his several wives; Anne Boleyn, with her “gospel eyes,” was a creature of nameless vices, who deserved no better fate than the axe and the block; Mary Tudor was nothing worse than a bilious ascetic, with an unfortunate habit of believing that God took peculiar pleasure in the savour of roast heretic, and therefore justified by her own conscience for all the murders she committed; Mary Stuart was, on the one side, spotless in womanly fame and with no trace of blood across her fair hands, on the other sunk into the lowest depths of iniquity, and all trace of humanity and sense of good effaced from her soul; Bacon was not set awry in any part of his moral nature, but was straight and comely throughout; and Charles II. was a dark-faced, saturnine, selfish loon, not at all the Merry Monarch whose very vices were but pleasant quips, and whose genial temper and loving mind made even the sternest forgive and the coldest admire. These are about the principal points of divergence between the old holdings and modern finding; whether true or not is not now our question. Among these changes of place we are glad to see the declared attempt to restore to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu the moral position which Pope's malevolence and Walpole's hatred robbed her of, both for their own generation and the succeeding ones;—the determination to scrape away the dirt which so many busy hands have flung against the picture, and let the world judge for itself concerning the features now revealed. If it is but a tardy act of justice to the memory of a clever and a brave woman, it is emphatically one better late than never; and we, who are the gainers, have no right to cavil at the lapse which has given our times a special advantage.

Mr. Moy Thomas has the intention to make a very complete work. At present he is only in the first volume; but he has given in his Memoir the pith and marrow of his views, which the second will substantiate and conclude. We have not come yet to the famous Pope quarrel, nor to the residence abroad; we have only reached the coronation, with Lady Orkney's “fat and wrinkles,” “the inimitable roll of her eyes, and her grey hairs which by good fortune stood directly upright”—Lady St. John's liberally-displayed charms—the poor Duchess of Montrose creeping along “with a dozen of black snakes playing round her face”—and my Lady Portland, “who represented very finely an Egyptian mummy embroidered over with hieroglyphics.” What life and vigour are in those touches! They are worth whole pages of more elaborate stippling from a weaker hand! Lady Mary inherited talent, if nothing more intellectually dazzling. Though there was little notoriously able in her ancestors, yet they numbered among them men, and women too, of more than average ability. Sir John Evelyn, in his Diary, speaks of the “prodigious memory of Sir John of Wilts's daughter,” which daughter was Lady Mary's grandmother and early instructress and companion; and the grandmother on the mother's side, the dowager Lady Denbigh, “with whom Lady Mary tells us she maintained a ‘regular commerce’ when a girl, appears to have been no less a remarkable person.” Her great-grandfather Peirrepoint was “Wise William,” but her father was more merry than wise, more good-natured than careful, more thoughtless than conscientious. Yet, man of pleasure though he was, he managed to make himself busy and conspicuous in the political worlds seething round the thrones of Anne and the first George. He was created Marquis of Dorchester in 1706, when Lady Mary was sixteen, and Duke of Kingston in 1715; but this added rank brought nothing in addition to the happiness, or, rather, did nothing to alleviate the unhappiness, of home. In one of her letters to her sister, Lady Mar, Lady Mary asks her if she does not remember how unhappy they were in that little parlour of Thoresby, and

how they had longed for marriage as the seal of their emancipation from slavery. For though the father loved and admired his beautiful little girl while she was a child, it was only while she was a child. He was not the man to fetter himself with the care of two young daughters; so he left them to subordinates, and an “old governess who, though perfectly good and pious, wanted capacity for her task,” while he went for his amusements elsewhere.

Thus the clever, vigorous, restless mind of the future wit and beauty was left to wander at its own will among all sorts of pastures, at the risk of picking up what was deadly and poisonous equally with what was wholesome and nutritious—only chance passers-by caring to direct, to warn, or to provide. To her father, we have said, she was dear only in proportion as she was ministrative to his vanity. This was clearly shown in the anecdote of how he sent for her one evening, all finely dressed, to the famous Kit-Cat club, where he had proposed her as one of the toasts for the year when only eight years old; how her health was drunk and her name engraved in due form upon a drinking glass, and how her picture was painted for the club-room, and she was enrolled as a regular “toast.” The freak and its momentary excitement over, and the child passing into the girl—when, as in all transition times, her beauty grew less remarkable until the next culmination had been reached,—she was consigned back to the good, pious, and incapable governess—to Bishop Burnet's casual “condescension in directing her studies”—and to the occasional correspondence of her mother's brother. But she managed very well. As Mr. Thomas says,—“Her childhood was passed in a patient and industrious course of self-culture, which was rare, indeed, in that age of female frivolity and ignorance;” and, “notwithstanding the temptations of remarkable beauty, her inclination appears at all times to have been towards a life of study and retirement, rather than to one of gaiety and idleness.” So that, on the whole, her undirected childhood did her but little harm; far less than would have been had she had a less decided inclination to guide herself aright.

She made good use of her time; taught herself Latin, and essayed romance writing; struck Mr. Wortley's imagination, and later, what served him in lieu of a heart, by the quickness of her repartee and the cleverness of her talk—especially by her criticisms on a new play—and though then only fourteen, and he a grave, well-educated, thoughtful man many years older, attracted him more powerfully than maturer women of more perfected beauty and education had ever done before; soon became known among her companions for her love of learning and the “vivacity of her parts,” and gave every evidence of a superior mind, and such brilliancy of career as fate, prejudice, the terrible obstacles of high life, and a vicious tone of public morals, rendered possible or likely. So she and time went on, until the girl passed into the woman, and the celebrated epoch of her flirtation with Mr. Wortley arose. And now come her love letters written to a third person (Mrs. Anne Wortley), and in the beginning as grave and stately and full of common sense as if they were dictated by a sexagenarian, instead of being the natural outpourings of a young creature in the first flush of her passions, her love, and her beauty; but this gravity and self-restraint became gradually lost in the unconscious self-revealing and tender self-abandonment which make the later letters so beautiful and charming. Nature became too strong for the artificial restraints of society, and love overthrew the stately decorum proper to the age and time, and the human heart swelled out from under the hoop and the farthingale, and Lady Mary did what meaner women have done before and since—and nobler women too—loved more tenderly than she was beloved, and with more self-sacrifice than cautiousness. Then we have the history of her courage, her determination, and disobedience to the Earl's wishes; her stealthy marriage, her retirement and subsequent *éclat*; her Turkish career, her fame, her lovers, her enemies, her slanderers, her unexplained residence abroad, her terrible disease and her accelerated death. It was not a very varied life, not a singularly active one, nor an important, nor an influential, not mysterious in any of its outward circumstances or conditions; yet it has hidden nothing but mysteries and puzzles from the day of her death until now, and has been the battle-ground of two distinct armies of combatants.

First, there is the mystery of the man Rémond, whom Horace Walpole, ignorant as malign, calls Ruremonde, and to whom Pope alluded in his false and cruel line:—

“Who starved a sister or denied a debt?”

Then there is the mystery of Pope himself, the quarrel, and why they quarrelled, and what were the terms on which they lived before they quarrelled, and many more unfinished and unanswered questions pertaining thereto; and there is the mystery of Lady Mary's residence abroad, and why, for twenty years, she exiled herself in loneliness, away from the husband she loved and the daughter she had watched over with peculiar care; and, last of all, there is the crowning mystery of all, why a character which, to our modern, unprejudiced, unheated eyes, was pure and spotless from all but the levities of a free tongue and a keen wit, should have lain for generations under odium and obloquy, and why and how the caustic lies of a couple of clever detractors should have had the power to swamp the truth and destroy an honest woman's name for above a hundred years. “Magna est veritas, et prevalebit.” Very likely, in the long run; but where the run is so very long as in this instance, to what family or individual good is it when it does prevail; and would not a little shorter breathing-time for lies have been more satisfactory to all concerned? Was there no champion contemporary with Pope and his slandered goddess, to have struck the crooked mirror from the walls of the Twickenham grotto, and put up one in a public place which should show the truth without distortion? Lady Bute neglected the best opportunity ever offered, or possible now to offer her mother's friends, when she burnt the diary and correspondence of Lady Mary's life. What letters have been left us, have gone some way towards clearing up the misrepresentations which have so long clouded an honourable name; but if Lady Bute had been less timidly and more nobly conscientious, she would have given the world materials whereby the truth would have long ago been made thoroughly manifest, and left triumphant against all gainsayers. Much, doubtless, lay in her kindly disinclination to chronicle for ever all the hasty words and sharp, ill-considered satires of her mother's earlier days. When pressed to forego her design of destroying the MSS., says Lady Louisa Stuart, “she would ask whether, supposing the case one's own, one could bear the thought of having every crude opinion, every transient wish, every angry feeling that had flitted across one's mind, exposed to the world after one was no more?” But much also of this sad decision may be traced to the aristocratic feeling then so strong, that authorship was a trade, and by no means an elevating one, and that Lord Bute's mother-in-law, and the Earl of Kingston's daughter, had better become famous even for her vices than for the equivocal honour of affiliation with the Grub-street fraternity. Again, events were still warm, names fresh, and individuals alive with whom Lady Mary had been connected, and the noble son-in-law and daughter shrank from drawing upon themselves any public attention save that given to the legitimate objects of public approbation—their wealth and happy fortune. Lady Bute did not see the matter as we see it; and we must put ourselves in her place, and accept her reasonings and her very prejudices if we would be just; she did not understand that this unwelcome publication would rescue her mother's name from years of misrepresentation and con-

* The Letters and Works of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Edited by her great-grandson, Lord Wharcliffe. With a Memoir by W. Moy Thomas. Vol. I. London: Bohn.

tempt, nor foretell the ages coming when her mother's sole claim to the world's consideration would be her wit and genius and that dreaded affiliation aforesaid—while her rent-roll, and her ancestry, and her titles, and her social position would be matters of as little moment as the diamonds she wore on a birthday night, or the shape of the silver spoon with which her nurse had first fed her. Still, the loss is a grievous one; irreparable now, and to the last degree mischievous, both as an example and a fact; but we must make the best of the materials left us, and examine the "mysteries" as truthfully and candidly as we may.

And first as to the mystery of the "small French wit," Rémond, lover, creditor, and slanderer, in quick and notable succession. This is Horace Walpole's ill-natured version of the affair, after he had read Lady Mary's letters to her sister:—"Ten of the letters, indeed, are dismal lamentations and frights, on a scene of villainy of Lady Mary's, who, having persuaded one Ruremonde, a Frenchman and her lover, to entrust her with a large sum of money to buy stock for him, frightened him out of England, by persuading him that Mr. Wortley had discovered her intrigue, and would murder him, and then would have sunk the trust." But Rémond—whom Saint Simon, that Pepys of the court of the Grand Monarque, described as "a little stunted or unfinished man, with big round staring eyes, coarse ugly features, and a hoarse voice,"—was a lover only in the insane way of all "wits" of the period; that is, he wrote laboured compliments and high-flown sentiments, and polished up his letters so that they would do him infinite honour and bring him in a rich reward of boudoir glory, when they were read aloud at tea-tables and the like; and he swore that he was mad, and dying, and languishing, and in despair; all of which meant no more than the "yours faithfully" of a modern letter, or the lavish proffers of a Spaniard. And if it suited his temper, as it did—and Pope's too—he made indelicate allusions, and wrote things which no modest woman could receive now without feeling herself infinitely degraded and insulted, but which then caused no shame, and raised no blush on the cheek of the most fastidious and the most virtuous. In his very first letter, when he writes to her as a brother-wit to a sister-wit, and because he has been charmed by a letter of hers addressed to the Abbé Contil and confided to him, he tells her that he has read and read again that letter a hundred times; that he has made a copy of it, which he quits neither by day nor night, and that by that letter alone he has fancied himself capable of perceiving the singularity of her character, and the infinite charms of her mind. Pretty well this, for a stranger! No wonder if, after such a warm beginning, we find flames of brighter fire quivering through the dull clay, or come upon traces of still more ardent protestations; which however have been evidently made in vain. For after he has seen her in England, we meet with him deploring the incapacity of the English ladies for either love or friendship, at the same time that he pledges himself to love her, "without exacting a return;" while, mingling somewhat discordantly with these finer chords, come the grosser notes of "business," and "self-interest," and "South-Sea Stock," and the "little tottering fortune," which he hopes to retrieve by his kind friend's condescension and business ability. After poetry bathos; the fall after the climax. Lady Mary did as she was desired. She invested the man's money in South-Sea Stock, just at the unlucky moment when the huge bubble was preparing to burst. It did burst, unfortunately for her. M. Rémond lost, and hundreds of honest folk lost too. But he thought he could frighten his goddess into the mere mortality of paying for his losses, and his silence into the bargain; and threatened to write to her husband, laying before him the whole correspondence that had passed between them; when perhaps a husband's sensitiveness might be made to yield what a wife's fears were not sufficiently alive to bestow.

That Lady Mary was horribly frightened is without doubt. In her letters to her sister she expresses herself naturally and warmly; speaks of the "agonies" she suffers each post-day, lest "that monster" should have executed his threat and sent the correspondence to her husband, whose strictness of principle and close-fistedness of practice in money matters might well make her tremble at the thought of having her folly and indiscretion revealed to him; bewails herself that she "carries her distemper about her in an agony of mind that visibly decays her body day by day;" yet, as she goes on, holds her head a little higher, and bears herself with more spirit and gallantry, "denies him satisfaction;" and when the bomb-shell actually explodes, and Mr. Wortley is made acquainted with the Frenchman's view of the subject, lays her own statement before him, and places herself quietly in his hands, giving him the fatal "love-letters" to endorse, as is his custom, and make what remarks on them he thinks best. And he does endorse them; in a queer, phlegmatic, philosophical way, scarcely to be understood by men of warmer blood and quicker sense of manly honour. Thus, Rémond's letter, written after he has been in England, and has seen his fair sister wit, whom he finds so "incapable of loving," though he engages to love her all the same without asking for a return, Mr. Wortley endorses—"Mr. Rémond, after his return to Paris. His loss by the Mississippi, and his small gain in England. Advises to realize." Was there ever a more covert or a calmer satire on a wife's lover written by any husband across the page of "declaration?" With such a philosophical temper as this to deal with, Lady Mary had surely no good grounds for the excessive anguish of fear manifest in her letters to her sister, even had her correspondence contained evidence of as much tenderness on her side as there was protestation on his; besides, this letter itself exonerates her from that charge; but there was every reason to be afraid of awkward revelations of stock-jobbery, and the like, to be made to a man who held squandering and a loose hand as among the deadliest sins of humanity. So now, spite of Pope, and Walpole, and the "hapless Monsieur's" unblushing lies, spite of the readiness of the world to believe in detractions, and the difficulty of washing off mud when once flung, Lady Mary stands confessedly clear of this first mystery; and nothing worse shurs her name, than the acknowledged freedoms of the time, and a rash good nature, which put her into the power of an unscrupulous and unprincipled man.

The other charge—but no mystery this time—brought against Lady Mary in the line before quoted—"who starved a sister," &c., had no more foundation than the rest. It appeared, like nearly all these accusations, first in Pope's writings; but no fact of her life, or what an honest biographer can accept as a fact, can be found to warrant an accusation at once so damnatory and so unlikely. Lady Mary was mad: indeed a fearful flavour of disease flashes through all the family. Lady Mary's "terrible fit of sickness" when she was abroad, and her death by cancer—of itself such an evidence of scrofula; her son's waywardness and infinite profligacy—unaccountable save by the charitable supposition that his brain, too, was touched, and that he was suffering from the family inheritance—are all strong evidence in favour of the theory which would ascribe many of the family eccentricities to the awful influence of scrofula falling chiefly on the brain. In Lady Mar's case there was no concealment of the fact, and no possibility of giving it another name. Unhappily married to a man ill-looked on by her sister, and whose political principles, at a time when political passions ran high, were in direct opposition to those of her own family, made the butt of family intrigues, and, after having been systematically ill-used by one brother, endeavoured to be

exploited and made use of by another, her fate alone might have disordered the brain of many a stronger and healthier woman; but, falling as it did on one naturally predisposed to excitement and disease, it did its work with fearful rapidity and distinctness. But surely there was everything in her position to soften the heart and move the compassion of a loving sister, as Lady Mary had always been; while nothing was to be gained by bad treatment in any form. On the other hand, Lord Grange, Lord Mar's brother, had everything to hope by her custody after her removal from the Earl. There was a certain arrangement regarding her property which the Earl and Grange wanted her to make. Could she be got to do this under such conditions as looked like freedom—that is, under their custody—then the more certain her subsequent madness, and the sooner her death the better. But her own family had, probably by a stratagem, succeeded in getting her out of her husband's hands (he was in Paris, where his treachery and bad faith to both Whigs and Tories kept him of necessity, for England was a dangerous place for him, and the doom of traitors was hanging over his head if he should dare set foot here again); and Lord Grange could not prevail on the Lord Chancellor to transfer to him the charge which his brother had so notoriously failed in. "All the schemes to which he resorted for this purpose proved unavailing, and he at length adopted the characteristic measure of forcibly seizing the unhappy lady, and carrying her off to Scotland." But on the road she was met and rescued by the Lord Chief Justice and his warrant, on an affidavit by her sister that she was lunatic and incapable of self-control. Poor Lady Mar was thus saved from the fate to which Lord Grange had, but the year before, consigned his own wife, whom he caused to be seized in the night by a party of highlanders, and carried off to a lonely and dreary imprisonment, which she only escaped by her death thirteen years after. Lady Mary did by her sister—as her husband tells her, when he urges her to deliver up her charge—"all that any one can think reasonable;" and when Lady Francis Erskine, Lady Mar's daughter, came to woman's estate, her aunt gave up into her hands the care of that unhappy sister, her very love of whom had subjected her to more slander and misrepresentation. Lady Francis accepted the charge, and soon after married her cousin, Lord Grange's son, whence she naturally adopted the views of her new family, and learnt to regard her aunt less lovingly than of old.

As to her own temporary detention in the North of Italy, that was probably caused by an illness of the same character as her sister's; but Walpole makes use of the indefinite confused report which came to England, to dash in one of his finest flavours of falsity and malignity, and accuses her, then a woman of sixty-one years of age, and afflicted with cancer in her face, of a licentiousness of conduct possible only to the young and attractive. So early as 1737 or 1738, she had been subject to an eruption in her face, which obliged her to keep close house, and suffered her to see only her intimate friends; and when young Horace Walpole saw her first at Florence, in 1740, he speaks of her thus:—"Her face swelled violently on one side . . . partly covered with a plaster and partly with white paint, which, for cheapness, she has bought so coarse, you would not use it to wash a chimney." In 1751, this old woman, past sixty, is accused of having fallen into bad hands in her last love affair, and that her lover had transformed himself into her jailer, according to the fashion usual to young gallants self-sold to the aged. Among Horace Walpole's many failings of temper and insolences of tongue, nothing stands out with deeper lines or blacker shadows than his wicked, unmanly, and unprovoked slanders of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.

This is not the place in which to touch on the celebrated Pope quarrel. In Mr. Thomas's second volume the whole matter will be discussed, and such evidence brought forward as time and the flames have spared to us. That their friendship began in the high-flown gallantry peculiar to the wits of the time—that it continued in evident indifference on her part, and with the same stilted affectation and mental licentiousness on his—that it never did, and never could have blossomed out into an intrigue or even a confessed flirtation with her, and that it ended abruptly and for no adequate assigned cause, are facts pretty well established now, and without much danger of being overthrown. But how it ended, whether because of the dirty sheets which Malone speaks of, or because of Lady Mary's untimely fit of laughter, because of Pope's new-born intimacy with the Tories, or because he was jealous of the Duke of Wharton, must all be spoken of in another notice, and when the second volume has appeared. But we may speak here of the famous Turkish letters, and of the authenticity of all of them, which so many good judges have doubted for so long.

When returning from Italy, after her husband's death, and after her own long residence abroad, Lady Mary presented a MS. copy of her letters, written while the embassy was at Constantinople, to Mr. Benjamin Sowden, a clergyman at Rotterdam. Her Turkish correspondence seems to have been copied by her soon after her return from the East; the first preface, written by Mary Astell, bearing date December 18, 1724. Written within the cover of the first volume of the copy now under notice was a memorandum: "These 2 volumes are given to the R^d Benjamin Sowden, minister at Rotterdam, to be disposed of as he thinks proper. This is the will and design of M. WORTLEY MONTAGU. Dec. 11, 1761." "The circumstances of that gift," says Mr. Thomas, "Mr. Sowden appearing to have been previously a stranger to Lady Mary, are, indeed, at first sight, highly improbable, and subsequent facts did not seem calculated to remove the doubts that have been suggested of Mr. Sowden's honesty; but the inscription appears to be in Lady Mary's handwriting, and the letters, with one or two exceptions, were, beyond doubt, copied entirely by her." Mr. Dallaway's account is, that the Earl of Bute, hearing, after her death, of the existence of this volume of letters and travels, commissioned a gentleman to buy them of Mr. Sowden for five hundred pounds. The clergyman assented to the bargain; the money was paid, and the MS. volume given up to his lordship. But, "much to the surprise of that nobleman and Lady Bute, the manuscripts were scarcely safe in England, when three volumes of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's Letters were published by Beckett." Mr. Sowden, on later and clearer evidence, does not seem to have had anything to do with this strange bit of shiftiness. There were certain variations between the Sowden MS. and the printed edition of 1763—certain unlikenesses both to this and to the Molesworth's MSS., that make it somewhat of a puzzle what copy the publishers did really use. It does not seem to have been the Molesworth copy, and it was not the Sowden; but the editor is said to have been Mr. John Cleland, a man of no very good repute in the literary world, being a kind of ink-fingered jackdaw, with no distinct ideas of intellectual honesty, and in such a case any supposition is allowable. Some of the letters are manifest forgeries; and the famous allusion to Twickenham in one of them, dated September 1, 1717 (Pope did not remove thither till twelve months later), seems to give the whole thing its quietus at once, and to dispose of all the doubtful passages and doubtful letters without remark.

But when all has been said that can be said, and the mystery sifted to its foundation, there still does not remain any satisfactory residuum for the seeker after truth, and the source whence the printed edition of 1763 was taken will doubtless remain hidden now for ever, among other undiscovered sources whence have flowed out misrepresentations and misconceptions. One curious little bit and we have done. The printed copy had a preface signed M. A., and dated 1724,

which Mr. Cleland ascribes to a "lady of quality," and calls her the "fair and elegant prefacer;" but the Sowden copy did not include that preface, though there was at least one MS. copy that did. Now Mary Astell (the Madonilla of the *Tatler*) was, says Lady Louisa Stuart in her "Anecdotes," "a very pious exemplary woman, and a profound scholar, but as far from fair and elegant as any old schoolmaster of her time; in outward form, indeed, rather ill-favoured and forbidding, and of a humour to have repulsed the compliment roughly had it been paid her while she lived." She was a great man-hater too, and despised the folly of women in their eagerness to get married; had strong and righteous notions of the equality of the sexes; and wrote, long before Mary Woolstonecraft appeared, a tract with which hers is strangely identical in thought and substance. But Mary Woolstonecraft had never seen Mary Astell's tract, and the two women came to the same intellectual goal by widely different paths of nature.

In our future notice on the second volume, we will touch on the scandals that pursued Lady Mary while she was abroad, and on her quarrel with Pope, which is perhaps the most interesting fact in her life to her biographer, involving, as it does, some dramatic elements and a mystery—materials surely enough to satisfy any chronicler. Mr. Moy Thomas has done his part of the present edition with judgment and understanding, and we may feel sure that by his next volume what can be known will be made manifest, and what can be cleared up will be made plain, of all the hidden secrets and undeveloped facts hanging round Lady Mary's career.

THE VEIL OF ISIS; OR, THE MYSTERIES OF THE DRUIDS.*

THERE is some difficulty in criticising a book which, while making great pretension to learning, is evidently written without any serious object; in which fiction is mis-stated for fact, and idle assertion takes the place of logical inference. In the work before us Mr. Winwood Reade undertakes to give a history of the Druids, the origin and principles of their religion, and the relation in which it stands towards the other religions of the ancient world. He occupies nine closely printed pages with "a catalogue of works consulted" for this purpose; tells us that he has read "all the great writers of the past;" and, lest this show of erudition should not sufficiently impress us with his fitness for the task he has undertaken, he appeals likewise to our sympathy:—"A young scholar, his fingers covered with the dust of venerable folios, his eyes weary and reddened by nightly toil," undertakes to contradict Bopp and Müller, to prove the descent of the Celts from the Egyptians, and the identity of the Druidical worship with that of the priests of Isis. Great as is the obscurity hanging over the early history of mankind, we are enabled by the study of comparative philology to determine the affinities of the various races, and even to trace with tolerable certainty the course and the periods of their principal migrations. That the Celtic tribes are not Chamitic, but descendants of the great Indo-European stock, is proved by the numerous analogies existing between their languages and those of the other Arian families, while the evidence afforded by their religion is no less distinct. No stronger line of demarcation can be conceived than that which separates the fetishism of the Egyptian from the worship of the great natural phenomena which is the foundation of the mythology and the common point of departure of the Japhetic races.

The statement of Mr. W. Reade, that "the Egyptians dictated theology to the world," is almost as preposterous as his assertion that in the Chaldean study of astronomy is to be found the origin of the heroes of the Greeks and the saints of the Roman Church. The distinguishing characteristic of the Isiac worship was its idolatry. Not satisfied with the innumerable carved images of their gods with which their temples and private dwellings overflowed, "the most common of plants, the most contemptible of beasts, the most hideous of reptiles" became also objects of their adoration. Clemens of Alexandria, describing one of their temples, says that the walls shine with gold and silver, and sparkle with gems and amber, but that when the veil which shrouds the divinity is drawn aside, "there you behold a snake, a crocodile, or a cat, or some other beast, a fitter inhabitant of a cavern or a bog than of a temple." Who does not remember the Satirist's mocking list of Egyptian divinities, nor the sneer with which it is closed:—

"O sanctas gentes, quibus hæc nascuntur in hortis
Numina!"

What is there in the Celtic worship to resemble this? While among the Egyptian races the relics of idolatry have been discovered by thousands, one small statue of Osiris, and one only, has ever been found in England; and that was discovered in a Roman camp, and belonged doubtless to that late period when the priests of Isis, driven from their own land, swarmed over Europe, and even founded a temple to Isis and Osiris at Rome.

It is pretty evident that Mr. W. Reade has derived his views of Druidism from the imaginative literature of the Eisteddfod, rather than from the facts of history. It pleases him to talk of the "sublime precepts" and "consoling promises" of the Druidical religion; "never before," according to him (p. 68), "never since in the world, has such vast power as the Druids possessed, been wielded with such purity, such temperance, such discretion;" and he is eloquent on the "pure morality" which they inculcated. He feels, indeed, that to the vulgar mind the "beautiful religion" may appear slightly tarnished by its bloody and wholesale human sacrifices; so he assures us that to the pure and holy Druidism, originating with Abraham under the oaks of Mamre, the "ceremonial usages" were superadded by the Phœnicians. The evidence of this fact we must suppose rests with Mr. W. Reade himself. So far as we learn from history, human sacrifice was as much a part of Druidism as reverence for the mistletoe, or any of the distinctive characteristics of their system. What real information we possess concerning it, is almost wholly derived from certain passages of Cæsar, Diodorus Siculus, Pomponius Mela, Suetonius, Tacitus, and Strabo; and these writers, while describing the priests as not ignorant of learning, and possessed of a considerable acquaintance with experimental natural philosophy, invariably represent them as bloody and inhuman. Cæsar tells us of the holocausts of men and women forced into gigantic wicker idols by these gentle Druids and burnt to death—of human victims slain on the altars that the priests might draw divination from their agonies—and of a morality which allowed sexual intercourse of a character we shall not venture to describe. Suetonius and Tacitus relate how Tiberius proscribed in vain these human sacrifices, and how Claudius, unable to repress them, was at length driven to order the destruction of the priests themselves. Probably nowhere else, except among the Peruvians, was human sacrifice so intimately blended with any of the loftier forms of faith. And this is the religion which Mr. W. Reade represents as "preserved in its pristine purity, and whose priests, through a barbarous soldiery, were received as martyrs in heaven before they had learned to be knaves on earth."

We have been thus minute in noticing Mr. Reade's views on Druidism, not only on account of the prominent place it occupies on his title-page, but because

* The Veil of Isis; or, the Mysteries of the Druids. By W. Winwood Reade. Skeet, 1861.

the remainder of the volume, arranged under the three heads of "Ceremonies of the Church of Rome," "Emblems of Freemasonry," and "Folk-lore," have really nothing to distinguish them beyond want of taste, lack of knowledge, and staleness. Of emblems, sacred or otherwise, our author seems to have a peculiar dread; and he endeavours to frighten us into banishing crosses from our churches, and may-poles from our village greens, by assuring us that there is not so much reference in them to the mystery of the Redemption or to the gladness of spring, as to the phallic worship of the Egyptians. Of priests he has a yet greater horror. He tells us he is willing to admit that an English clergyman is not always "a wolf clothed in lamb-skin;" still, he anxiously says, "we know that power presents temptations which minds fortified only by three years' education at a college are often unable to resist;" and we are no longer under the dominion of the mild Druids, but of men descended from Calvin, "a priest of the Reformation who ordered his victims to be burned with green wood." Mr. Reade therefore thinks it his duty to raise a warning shriek against the "false vipers" by whom we are surrounded. "Look everywhere, look everywhere, and you will see the priests reeking with gore. They have converted popular and happy nations into deserts, and have made our beautiful world into a slaughter-house drenched with blood and tears. Englishmen! they are planting images, they are performing ceremonies in your houses of worship which you find it impossible to understand. They are hidden from your eyes by a dark veil; it is the veil of a Pagan goddess; it is the veil of Isis!" (p. 132). In the next chapter Mr. Reade shows himself more tolerant of the Masonic than of the Christian emblems, as he evidently thinks the doctrines of the Masonic fraternity, of which he intimates he is a member, preferable to those of the Christian Church. "The doctrines of Masonry are the most beautiful that it is possible to conceive. They breathe the simplicity of the earliest ages, animated by the love of a martyred God. . . . We have no narrow-minded prejudices; we do not debar from our society this sect or that sect; it is sufficient for us that a man worships God, no matter under what name or in what manner, and we admit him. Christians, Jews, Mahometans, Buddhists, are enrolled among us, and it is in the Masons' Lodge alone that they can kneel down together without feeling hatred, without professing contempt against their brother worshippers."

There is little in the "Folk-lore" which the reader will not find better told in Brande's "Popular Antiquities," or in Mr. Godfrey Higgins's "Celtic Druids," an elaborate and valuable work, not indeed mentioned by Mr. Reade in his "Catalogue of Works Consulted," but of which we do not suppose him to have been ignorant. We subjoin, however, a specimen from this chapter, without either pledging ourselves to the Druidic origin of wooden shoes, or to the cut of the "very garment," in which the Druid Abaris visited Athens:—

"The onion was an emblem of the deity among the Egyptians, perhaps also among the Druids, for it is a custom in some parts of England for girls to divine by it, as Barnaby Googe, in his translation of 'Naogeorgus' Popish Kingdom' informs us,

"In these same days young wanton gyles that meet for marriage be,
Doe search to know the names of them that shall their husbands be;
Four onions, five, or eight, they take, and make in every one
Such names as they do fancy most, and best to think upon;
Thus nere the chimney them they set, and that same onion then,
That firste doth sproute, doth surely bear the name of their good man."

"In matters of dress, there are not many traces of the Druids and the ancient Britons to be found. The caps of rushes, however, which they wore tied at the top, and twisted into a band at the bottom, may still be seen upon the heads of children in Wales and some parts of England. In Shetland the ancient sandals of untanned skin are worn, and also, by fishermen in the cold weather, the Druidic wooden shoes. I could not discover their real origin during my visit there; some said they had been imported by the Dutch, others that the Dutch had borrowed the idea from them; but in any case these wooden shoes, the *sabots* of the lower orders of France, are derived from the Druids. The best instance of dress, however, is the Highland plaid, which was the very garment worn by the Druid Abaris on his visit to Athens, and which is an extraordinary example of savage conservatism."

Mr. W. Reade evidently feels himself strong in the science of etymology; our readers shall therefore judge for themselves of his ability as displayed in the etymologies he furnishes of the words *communion*, *huzza*, *dizzy*. "We first hear of the sacramental offering of bread and wine as used by Melchisedek. I have described it among the ceremonies of Druidism. Among the Hebrews it was called *qum*, whence our word *communion*." "A sprig of accacia (*sic*) is one of the emblems revered by Masons, and answers to the Egyptian lotus, to the myrtle of Eleusis, to the golden branch of Virgil, and to the Druidic mistletoe. It is curious that *Houzza*, which Mahomet esteemed an idol—*Houzza*, so honoured in the Arabian works of Ghatfîn, Koreisch, Kenânah, and Salem, should be simply the accacia. Thence was derived the word *huzza*! in our language, which was probably at first a religious exclamation, like the *Evohe!* of the Bacchantes." "The word *dizzy* is derived from the Druidic *deisul*, or circular dance (in Hebrew *dizzel*). I could give a multitude more, but, 'Ohe! jam satis est.'"

In dedicating his present work to a lady, who, "like a guardian angel," has presided over his work, the author must have had an indistinct idea of the angelic nature and attributes, as he has of sundry other matters of which he has treated—at any rate he must have often been without his "angel in the house;" at least that is the only way we are able to account for the admission into his pages of certain "mysteries" of which we are sure an angelic nature would rather have been left in the dark. Mr. W. Reade tells us he has grown purer as he has grown older; but if a "guardian angel" would be accompanied by her worshipper to a higher sphere, let her admonish him in the words once before addressed by an immortal to a youthful aspirant—

"Maie nova virtute, puer: sic itur ad astra."

THE STORY OF BURNT NJAL.*

DR. DASENT is certainly one of our first scholars in Scandinavian literature, and he has already contributed not a little to our knowledge of the mythology and history of the northern peoples, peoples in whom we have so many reasons for feeling an interest. He has established a further claim upon our gratitude by giving us in a useful and accessible form one of the most remarkable monuments of that branch of the Scandinavian race which became established in Iceland. The old literature of the north consists chiefly in sagas, or, as the word means literally, stories, which were originally, as with the various branches of the Teutonic race, composed in verse, the natural form of literature of a primitive people, but at the period when the existing sagas were compiled this had been generally exchanged for prose. Some of these sagas belonged to the mythology of the race, and told of the beginnings of things, and of the exploits of the gods; others contained the legendary histories of the mythic kings and heroes, the supposed ancestors of the great kingly families; while a third class related the adventures of known chieftains and of remarkable families, for in this primeval form of society family history was that which had most interest for people in general. Our Anglo-Saxon poem, or romance, as it is commonly called, of

* The Story of Burnt Njal; or, Life in Iceland at the end of the Tenth Century. From the Icelandic of the Njals Saga. By George Webbe Dasent, D.C.L. With an Introduction, Maps, and Plans. Two vols. Svo. Edinburgh: Edmonston & Douglas. 1861.

Beowulf, is in fact a saga belonging to the second of these classes. At a later period, when the northern literary compilers became acquainted with the literature of mediæval Europe, they translated also much of it into the same form of sagas, so that there were added to the national monuments of this description sagas of Alexander the Great, of Charlemagne, of Godfrey of Bouillon, and of other heroes who had never been heard of before. The story of *Burnt Njal* belongs to the third class of the sagas of native northern origin, to the histories of chieftains and families, of which it is the longest and the most interesting, both in its general outline and in its details. It is supposed to have been committed to writing in its present form towards the year 1200, that is, about two centuries after the age of the events recorded in it, but we know that in the state of society which then existed in Iceland the family stories of this kind were handed down from father to son with scrupulous accuracy, and the story itself, with the exception of those little exaggerations which none could avoid in relating the warlike exploits of individuals, bears the air of truthfulness on its face. It is, indeed, a singular picture of an age when society had only partially emerged from that condition in which each individual held the right of exacting justice for himself, and when the new supremacy of law was felt by a considerable portion of the population, which had before acknowledged no supreme power whatever, rather as an irksome burthen than as a good; and its interest is increased by the circumstance that it makes us acquainted with almost every detail of domestic and public life.

Njal Thorgeir's son, the nominal chief hero of the story, one of the greatest and wisest of the Icelanders, the man of peace and the asserter of laws amid sanguinary and often lawless feuds, was born somewhere between the years 930 and 935. We say the nominal hero, because, although the savage fray in which *Njal* and his sons perished forms the point on which the history turns, yet it is really the story of a complication of feuds and of a great number of personages, in which he acts chiefly as a moderator or as a peace-maker. In the middle of the tenth century, Mord was the greatest of the chiefs of the south-western part of the island, the first of lawyers, and the great supporter of the newly-established code of laws. He had an only daughter, Unna, celebrated for her good breeding and courteousness, who, on this account, and on account of her father's great wealth, was looked upon as the greatest match in the country. In another district, the west, lived the half-brothers, Hauskuld and Hrut, the first, one of the most valiant men of the time; the second, not only a brave and powerful warrior, but celebrated for his wit and his foresight—a sort of second sight. Hauskuld had a beautiful daughter named Hallgerda, whose beauty, however, was combined with a cruel and proud temper, which was encouraged and indulged by her foster-father, Thioistolf, a man full of guile and wickedness. While the lady was a mere child, Hrut had read her character, and foretold the mischiefs which would arise from it, and his plain-speaking led to an estrangement between the two brothers. When Hallgerda was not more than fifteen years of age, her father gave her in marriage to a chieftain named Thorwald, and, as she had not been consulted in the arrangement, and looked upon her husband as beneath her in rank, she caused him a year afterwards to be murdered by her wicked uncle, Thioistolf. Some time afterwards, she chose a husband for herself named Glum, to whom she was much attached, but, in consequence of a quarrel between man and wife, he also was slain by her foster-father. After the deed, Hallgerda, thus twice a widow between the ages of fifteen and twenty, regretted this murder, and caused Thioistolf to be slain by her uncle Hrut. Meanwhile Hrut had wooed and been betrothed to Unna, the daughter of Mord, had been called away to Norway to claim an heritage, had become there the paramour of the wicked queen Gunnhilda, and had returned to Iceland two years afterwards, in 965, and been married to Unna. Unna deserted her husband in 968, and they were separated, after which there arose a prolonged dispute about the dower of the lady, which, in the end, her cousin Gunnar, one of the noblest characters in the history, obliged Hrut to restore. On the death of Mord, about 970, *Njal* took his place as the great law authority among the Icelanders, and he became about this time the sworn friend of Gunnar. The latter, two or three years afterwards, fell in love with Hallgerda, Hauskuld's daughter, and married her, in spite of his friend *Njal*'s forebodings. Hallgerda was no sooner married than she began to stir up new feuds. She began by quarrelling with *Njal*'s high-minded and high-spirited wife, Bergthora, and she indulged her spitefulness, during the absence of her husband, by sending her grieve, or bailiff, named Kol, to slay Swart, the favourite house-carle of Bergthora and *Njal*. Gunnar refused to favour the evil deeds of his wife, and freely paid *Njal* the atonement money for the slain man, and remained his friend; but Bergthora was not so easily pacified. She took into her service a homeless man named Atli, and, during the absence of *Njal*, this man slew Hallgerda's grieve, Kol. *Njal* now, on his part, paid the compensation money to Gunnar. Nevertheless, the next opportunity, Hallgerda employed her kinsman, Brynjolf the Unruly, to kill Atli. Gunnar again paid the compensation money, but, as Atli was a freedman, the fine was much heavier than before. But Bergthora again acted on her own account, and at her bidding Thord, whose father had been a freedman, and who was the foster-father of *Njal*'s children, slew Brynjolf the Unruly. *Njal* paid the compensation money, and he and Gunnar still remained friends, but between the women the feud was spreading wider and wider, and kinsmen had now been dragged into it. *Njal*'s sons now come upon the scene, and especially Skarphadinn, with his terrible war-axe, and they show much less inclination to forgive than their father; while repeated acts of violence and wickedness on the part of Hallgerda increase the number of Gunnar's enemies, who, after many acts of mutual hostility and slaughter, league together against Gunnar, and attack him in his own house, where, after a wonderful defence, he is slain through his wife's treachery. Hallgerda thus became a widow a third time, while troubles were preparing among all her family and friends. These, however, were retarded for a while by the absence of *Njal*'s sons, who spent five years abroad, and returned, in 994, to Iceland, with their bosom friend Kari, who soon afterwards became their brother-in-law.

Not long after this, in 997, Christianity was first introduced into Iceland, and the manner in which it was established there was certainly characteristic. King Olaf of Norway in that year sent Thangbrand to preach the Christian faith in Iceland, accompanied by Gudleif, who was "a great manslayer." On their arrival they were hospitably received by Hall of the Side, who with his family were baptized the first day. When the missionaries proceeded with their work of conversion, and went inland, they met an obstinate pagan named Thorkell, who spoke much against the faith, and challenged Thangbrand to single combat. Thangbrand slew the pagan Thorkell. Thus they went through the island, converting some, and slaying others. Among the earlier converts were *Njal* and his family. Finally, by intrigue and stratagem, although the majority of the Icelanders were still opposed to the new faith, a decision of the Thing, or great annual meeting for making and enforcing laws and settling quarrels, was obtained in its favour. A feeling of hostility still remained between those who had received Christianity only in obedience to the law and those who had adopted it by conviction; and this perhaps embittered the feuds which followed. The decision of the Thing which changed Iceland from heathendom to Christianity was given on the 24th of June, in the year 1000.

Njal had adopted as his foster-child Hauskuld, whose father Thrain had been slain by Skarphedinn, and by *Njal*'s means this foster-child was married to Hildigunna, whose uncle was Flosi, a man, to use Dr. Dasent's words, "of noble heart and good intentions, whom fate and the duty of revenge led headlong into crimes of the blackest dye." New quarrels and new slaughters follow, and another Mord, the guileful and the venomous, moved in some degree by the hatred of the old heathen for the new Christianity, set to work industriously to breed mischief. We have only room to state briefly, that after labouring with no great success in other quarters, this man succeeds in poisoning the minds of *Njal*'s sons by his lies and calumnies, and that they, in the spring of 1011, went forth and slew Hauskuld. Flosi took up the feud of his nephew, and *Njal* became involved in the catastrophe which followed. Flosi collected a party of 120 men, who were afterwards known as the Burners, attacked *Njal* and his sons in their house, and, unable to conquer them otherwise, set fire to it, and the whole family, *Njal* and Bergthora and their sons, perished in the flames, with the exception of Kari, who made his escape, took up the feud of the slaughtered family, and pursued it with untiring animosity, in conjunction with Thorgeir Craggeir, *Njal*'s cousin. An attempt was made at the ensuing Thing to settle the feud by law, but it ended in a terrible battle, in which Flosi and his supporters were defeated; and by a subsequent decision of the Thing the Burners were all banished. Kari and Thorgeir slew fifteen of them before they left the island, and the former took ship to follow them. A great part of them reached Ireland in time to take part against Brian Boromhe, in the great battle of Clontarf, where fifteen more of the Burners perished. Flosi with others remained with Sigurd, Earl of Orkney, where Kari arrived on Christmas Day, and slew one of the most obnoxious of the Burners in Earl Sigurd's hall. Flosi now went on his pilgrimage of penitence to Rome, but on his way he remained a while in Wales, and Kari, hearing that he was there, followed him, and slew Kol, Thorslain's son, who was the worst of all the Burners. Kari was now satisfied with the vengeance he had taken, and some time after he also repaired to Rome to obtain absolution of his sins. Flosi returned to Iceland in 1016, when the period of his banishment had expired, and after he had become sincerely penitent for the part he had taken in these sanguinary feuds. A year afterwards Kari also returns, is shipwrecked on the coast where Flosi dwelt, who receives him with kind hospitality, and they become sincerely reconciled. Thus ends the great feud of the burning of *Njal* and his family.

The story is a strange one, and full of interest from the certainty that we are reading facts and not romance, from the wonderful picture it gives us of life at that remote period and in that primitive state of society, and, if possible, still more from the circumstance that it was the same form of society, or nearly so, in which our own forefathers lived, at a period which has left us no records, although out of it has sprung much of our own social forms, of our constitutional principles, and of our national character. In fact the story of *Burnt Njal* has a double interest for us as Englishmen, inasmuch as it presents to us the only approach to a picture we have of the manners of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors at the time when they came into Britain, and it gives us also a picture of those northern sea-rovers who ravaged our island at a later date. At the time when these sagas took their form society in Iceland preserved earlier characteristics than on the Scandinavian continent. The *Njals Saga* appears to us to be admirably translated by Dr. Dasent, who has not confined himself to giving us a bare text, but, in a long introductory essay on the early history and condition of Iceland, and in an appendix of essays on subjects incidental to the main story, he has investigated and laid before us with very great learning, and evidently with very great labour, a mass of knowledge which fills up the gaps, in this respect, that are often left even by the very ample details of the history itself, or enables us better to understand such facts as are related barely by those who were already familiar with them.

JAMES THE FIFTH.*

THE title-page of this book might lead the reader to suppose that it is a romance founded on some tradition of the Scotch King, who delighted to wander incognito among his poorer subjects, like Haroun-al-Raschid and the Emperor Joseph II. No greater mistake could be made. The Gudeman of Ballangeich is a historical work, by a laborious compiler, who has taken the trouble to ransack old records for facts connected with the domestic life of his hero, and for traces of his youthful follies and escapades, without, however, having been able to glean from these sources any information of interest concerning him beyond what is to be found in Tytler and other familiar writers on Scotch history.

At the age of twelve the guardians of James V. thought that his literary education had gone far enough. An old poet has put into rhyme the advice the Ministers of the Crown are said to have given to their royal pupil, on leaving school. Here is one verse:—

"We think them very natural fools
That learn over meikle at the schools,
Sir, you maun learn to run a spear
And guide you like a man of weir."

The young king found the society of the persons who instructed him in manly exercises more to his taste than that of schoolmasters and scholars. He went further. He conceived a violent liking for the company of the vagrants who formed such an important element in Scotch society in the sixteenth century. He plunged headlong into a crypto-blackguard life, of which unmistakable traces may be discovered in the records still extant of the disbursements made on his behalf by the treasurer of the period. According to tradition it was his supreme delight to wander about the country disguised as a beggar or minstrel, to dance at village fairs, and to spend the night with revellers of the lowest class. One of his solitary excursions into the highlands forms the theme of Sir Walter Scott's poem of the "Lady of the Lake." Another of his adventures was made the subject of a drama by the late Mr. Murray, of the Edinburgh Theatre, which, under the name of "Cramond Brig," has become, after "Rob Roy," the most popular of all comedies with Scotch playgoers. In this piece, we are told that the playwright "has twisted tradition a little to suit the purposes of morality and effect," and wisely has he done so.

Mr. Paterson ascribes to King James V. the authorship of the three best Scotch ballads, which describe vagrant life; *Pebbles to the Play*, *The Gaberlunzie Man*, and the *Jollie Beggar*, but he adduces no conclusive argument to support his opinions. Mr. John Wilson and Mr. Templeton, the "vocalists," were, he tells us, in the habit of singing the last piece to fashionable audiences. In so doing they had the good taste to suppress more than one half of the original matter. Mr. Paterson would have done well to follow their example, recollecting that his book is intended for the perusal of ordinary readers and not for the study of antiquaries and historians. We do not think that what he has written will raise his hero in general estimation. He shows, no doubt, that the king hanged, at one time, only thirty-six of Johnnie Armstrong's men, whereas historians have hitherto

* James the Fifth; or, the Gudeman of Ballangeich. By James Paterson. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo. 1861.

fixed the number at forty-eight. He proves conclusively that he did not wait till a year had elapsed from the death of Queen Magdalene before he married Queen Mary; but that, contrary to the statement of Tytler, he contracted a fresh alliance within six months. Such corrections certainly do not tend to affect our estimate of the king's character, but they are of importance. They show that Mr. Pater-son is qualified to work for the antiquaries if not for the million, and that if instead of writing books not remarkable for literary merit on subjects which it is undesirable to bring under the notice of general readers, he would ransack some of those unexplored charter chests referred to by Professor Innes, in his "Sketches of Early Scotch History," he might add stores of important information to the scanty knowledge we now possess of the manners and customs of our ancestors during the eventful period which immediately preceded the Reformation.

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.*

THE Church of Rome followed the practice of enlisting all troublesome men of talents in its service, and it flourished through many ages. In truth, there is no other means of welfare for any institution. Talents are the natural leading powers of society, and the institution which does not incorporate them into its functions cannot possibly last. The government of England having now lasted longer than any other known government, except that of China, must be presumed to have generally adopted this practice. In fact, it has at all times enlisted, to a certain extent, the talents, literary and other—as, for example, those of Addison and Chatham—in its service, but it has followed this practice in its usual faltering, half-and-half, imperfect, unconvinced way. Last week we mentioned the case of Burke, a man of the most commanding talents, snubbed in a subordinate capacity, and for ever denied the foremost place, though his services were indispensable. Now we have to advert to a case in the diplomatic service in which talent was acknowledged and yet not rightly treated. Sometimes the government, as in the case of the late Mr. Wilson, really understands the importance of conceding high authority to high talents, though even he was not fairly treated by being made subordinate to Sir Charles Wood. Sometimes it only neutralises an opponent, as when it gives a place to Mr. Fonblanque or Mr. McCulloch, and does not gain an efficient, active, zealous servant. In the case of Mr. Laing it secures all the talents and all the zeal it can hope for, but it is obvious that they are not the first-rate which commands the respect of mankind. Mr. Werry was one of the middle class, who had, in a good school in England, and in the society of his father's friends in the East—he was consul at Smyrna—acquired the knowledge and the talents of a diplomatist. He had a zeal for the occupation. The friendly interposition, apparently, of Mr. Hamilton, long connected with the Foreign Office, introduced him to the diplomatic service, in which his merits were acknowledged by several successive foreign secretaries.

With no other patronage he obtained an appointment as attaché to the embassy to St. Petersburg under Lord Cathcart, at the critical period of Bonaparte's invasion of Russia. His account of the proceedings at that embassy adds one more to the many chapters already written of the history of mal-administration in every branch of the public service. The active, useful, skilful middle-class man, well acquainted with several languages, studious of the manners and usages of the people amongst whom he lived, courteous, and winning their confidence, was neglected, thrust aside, kept out of business, to preserve power for the sons of his chief. So through a long career, though this is scarcely told as a matter of complaint, was Mr. Werry ever put back or kept back because some parliamentary or aristocratic personage was to be gratified by the diplomatic promotion that was due to his acknowledged talents. The utility of the book is, that it explains the working of the system to the injury of the diplomatic department as we see it working to the ruin of the army and navy. It is impossible for government to get on without continually engaging in its service the ever rising talent that grows up outside its pale; but it seems equally impossible for it ever to assign to talent its great and proper place, lest it should extinguish the titled mediocrities who claim as theirs exclusively its most distinguished rewards. Another use of Mr. Werry's memoirs is to add much to the information we already possess of the disastrous march to Moscow, and the downfall, in consequence, of Bonaparte. In particular he makes us better acquainted with the feelings of the people—ministers, generals, ambassadors, citizens, and others, on the continent at that important time. Before we read the book, we were puzzled to imagine what interest the memoirs of such an unknown person as Mr. Werry could have for the public; but we close with a feeling of gratitude to the lady who has published the simple narrative and the adjoined correspondence for having contributed to increase our knowledge of great folks and our institutions at that critical period of the world's history.

A STANDING NAVY.†

COMMANDER FORBES seems to be permanently embued by the late alarms, and can see no safety for us but in organizing a standing navy of 100,000 men—70,000 regulars and 30,000 supernumeraries. We have 73,000 men, embodied and employed, in the present year; but this vast body does not suffice for our permanent security. All the apprehensions, however, of the gallant politician seem founded on the fact that the French Government has 120,000 men available for service afloat. Liverpool, he thinks, might be destroyed within forty-eight hours by the "iron-plated hulls" steaming from Brest or Cherbourg. Indeed, it is not quite clear that Portsmouth would be wholly exempt from an attack by these formidable additions to modern warfare. Nothing then can save and serve us but to get ready as speedily as possible and maintain a force of 100,000 men, and provide ships to defend the nation. He warns us "that in the event of a war with our great rival no maudlin humanity will stand between the destruction of the sinews of war as represented by wealth though it be private property and undefended." When the country has been without a standing navy, i.e., a considerable number of men of war in commission, with a proportionate number of officers and seamen embarked, a number of marines both on shore and afloat, with an immense staff of officers on half pay desirous of employment, we are not aware; but certainly not within this century. Commander Forbes' plan therefore goes merely to make the standing navy larger and more complete than it has hitherto been.

Whatever merit may belong to his suggestion we freely concede to him, but it is hardly worth while to discuss his proposal while the whole subject of the navy is undergoing investigation by a committee of the House of Commons. Whether the navy should be kept permanently on the footing proposed by him cannot be decided by present circumstances. By all means let us provide against the existing emergency, but the condition of Europe, from 1815 to 1852, to which

* Personal Memoirs and Letters of Francis Peter Werry, Attaché to the British Embassies at St. Petersburg and Vienna in 1812–1815. Edited by his daughter. London: J. Skeet.

† A Standing Navy: its Necessity and Organization. By Charles Stuart Forbes, Commander, R.N. John Murray, Albemarle-street.

present circumstances are exceptional—and if they be not exceptional, the battle of Waterloo, from which they result, must be considered one of the most disastrous in our annals,—will not justify the plan of maintaining a standing navy of 100,000 men.

The intentions of Commander Forbes are excellent, his pamphlet is well written, but it is better to wait for the new organization to be expected from official investigations than at once to occupy the public with his plans.

SKETCHES OF FOREIGN NOVELISTS.*

THE volume before us comes with little pretension, and all the more worth. We have tried to discover who Georgina Gordon is, literally speaking, and having failed, we bow to the well-known imputation. But we are under less reserve in expressing our sense of the happy idea adopted by the authoress, which, without being very startling, is excellent in itself. Few subjects are more interesting in the present day than the comparison of the novels of the different European countries, not so much in their artistic treatment, the rules for which are common to all, subject to differences of school, which are not peculiar to any one nation, as in their views of society, and in their moral tendencies. But even those who can read the various languages with perfect ease constantly feel that the essential moral differences between the novels of the different countries are not a little obscured by the different garb in which they are clothed. We are less clearly conscious of the exact and scientific amount of divergence between "Monte Christo" and "Waverley," for instance, when we read them in their respective languages, than when we study them both in French, or both in English, because it is less easy in the former case to make the apportionment between that which belongs to the genius of the language, and, therefore, of the country in general, and the character of the novel in particular. To judge is to compare, and without comparison of some kind there is no true judgment. And the work of comparison is in a great many points simplified by looking at the various compositions through one medium. To use a mathematical illustration, the comparison of two curves is analytically best performed by reducing both to the same system of co-ordinates.

This is what our authoress has endeavoured to do with happy tact and success, taking a small field for a first attempt, comprising sketches carefully chosen and condensed into one volume from the German of Mühlbach, Auerbach, and Mügge; the French of Octave Feuillet, Jules Sandeau, and Dumas; and the Swedish of Emily Flygare-Carlen. Of a knowledge of Swedish we confess our innocence; but if the last sketch in the book taken from our northern sister is not inferior to the other translations, nothing more need be said in its praise. Here is a passage from the French of Jules Sandeau, describing the self-immolation of a French lover and the sacrifice of his glazed boots on the altar of love, the language of which, however trifling the subject, is as far above ordinary translation, as ordinary translations are commonly below the original. Elodie de Longpré is the heroine. Valentin, the hero, meets Elodie at a fête champêtre given at Celle-St.-Cloud, and dances with her in the course of the evening. Before the fête was over, "his heart was in her hands." He longs to become acquainted with her family. A common-place introduction would not have suited his ideas of romance. (We are in France, remember.)

"That would have spoilt all the charm. So he wandered about their place in hopes that, if she rode, her horse might run away, and he might be privileged to stop it; or, if she walked round the pond (there was a pond in the neighbourhood) she might fall in (oh, love, love, love) and that he might save her life, or some such chance might crown his wishes.

"Fortune is propitious, though not exactly as he had arranged. One day at last, one happy day, as he wandered round the lake (love changed the pond into a lake), spinning the threads of fancy through a hundred adventures, of which he was the hero, and Elodie the heroine, he at last perceived the object of his search. She was seated at the water's edge; her round straw hat lay beside her, her long hair fell over her shoulders, and she was trying to reach some lilies with her parasol. Her mother, seated beside her, was chattering away, and caressing on her knee one of those little odious curs of the English breed, of which old ladies are often so fond. Valentin gazed from his place of concealment on this nymph—on his Ophelia. If the Fates would only permit that her foot might slip, and she should fall into the water, and that he should rescue her, and lay her at the feet of her despairing parent! And it was written in the book of fate, that Valentin should that day save the life of the object of that worthy old lady's fondest affections, but not exactly as he wished. It happened that Zamore (that was the dog's name), tempted beyond the bounds of canine patience by the frogs that gambolled about among the rushes, was so ill advised as to slip off his mistress's lap, and go plump in among the weeds. He disappeared in the mud. Upon this Madame de Longpré sprang to her feet like a jointed doll, and yelled; and Elodie sat still, a statue of despair. It was no time to hesitate, and Valentin came forward. Nothing could be less romantic than getting up to the waist in mud, in a very dirty pond, to rescue a hideous little cur; but that cur belonged to Elodie's mother; so tucking up his sleeves, as if he was going to perform an operation, and sacrificing his glazed boots on the altar of love, he went boldly forward, the two ladies assuring him of their eternal gratitude. Poor Zamore, blinded by his long ears, struggled among the weeds and slime, and uttered piteous little yelps. By a great effort Valentin reached the creature, seized it by one of its long ears, and flung it on shore, a disgusting little mass of mud. The gratitude of the old lady knew no bounds, and he was invited to call. The introduction to the family was thus achieved."

If the reader will turn from this sketch to the domestic pictures among the Swedish smugglers, from which any quotation here would be difficult, he will not fail, we think, to observe the advantages afforded by bringing two literatures, as it were, into juxtaposition within one volume, and under the homogeneous light of one language.

Our space forbids us to enter upon a variety of topics suggested by this pleasant little volume. We will only express the hope that the authoress may pursue the idea she has happily illustrated into wider and even more interesting fields. She can scarcely fail to find abundant materials for comparisons and analogies, equally welcome to the general reader and to the philosophical student of the literary currents circulating through the different countries of Europe.

THE MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

THE first of the magazines for May that has reached us is one that has justly won for itself a world-wide popularity—the *Cornhill*. It is rich in materials and in variety, although no contribution is to be compared in excellence with those papers, "The Roundabout," and "The Adventures of Philip," written by its editor. In the May number there are two new stories, the first, "The Stage Queen and the Squire," to which no name is attached, and the second, "Agnes of Sorrento," by Mrs. Beecher Stowe. Both are good, but, for English readers, we expect the tale told by the anonymous writer will be considered as the superior of the two. It is racier in style, and its characters better developed. The number is illustrated with a picture, "A Juvenile Party—3 till 7," by Mr. Doyle.—We have also received two numbers of an American magazine, entitled *The Knickerbocker*—*New York Magazine*, illustrated with an engraving of its editor, having a pen in one hand and a long tobacco-pipe in the other. The peculiar feature of this magazine is its having a considerable portion of each number assigned to the gossiping observations of the editor upon all sorts of topics. This department of the magazine is entitled "The Editor's Table," and there are to be found in it

* Sketches of Foreign Novelists. By Georgina Gordon. James Hogg & Sons.

bits of news, scraps of criticism, extracts from letters, books, notices of living or dead literary individuals. All is pleasantly and cleverly written, but marred occasionally by an egotism which in its repetition becomes offensive.—The *North American Review*—another publication sent from America—is a periodical published in Boston, U.S. The April number is remarkable for an able and temperate article on the perilous question of "slavery."—Mr. Harrison Ainsworth continues in *Bentley* his ably-told romance, "The Constable of the Tower." In the present number is given an account of the Coronation of Edward VI. It is as strictly accurate as if the author were devoting himself to the toilsome task imposed upon an historian. We know of no work in the English language which gives so accurate a notion of the men and times of the young Tudor King as Mr. Ainsworth's "Constable of the Tower." The early life of Queen Elizabeth, and the intrigues of the Somersets, can be fully and justly appreciated by a perusal of his pages. The labours of a diligent student are combined with the powers of an original writer in the construction of scenes and the portraiture of characters, that leave an ineffaceable impression upon the mind of the reader. In addition to the attractions of Mr. Harrison's historical romance, *Bentley* provides its readers with Mr. Dudley Costello's amusing story of London Vagabondage in "Crooked Usage," and a capital paper entitled "How I was Trapped by the Trappers," by Ovida. In *Macmillan*, there are several good papers by H. G. Robinson, Henry Kingsley, Henry Sedgewick, and the author of "Tom Brown's School-days."—In *Temple Bar* there are three chapters of Mr. Sala's novel, "The Seven Sons of Mammon," and three first-rate chapters they are; two of them exhibiting a marvellous knowledge of profitable villainies carried on in this great city, combined with a wonderful power in the portraiture of the individuals by whom they are practised. The third chapter presents what is a new picture to English readers, a description of the convict prison at Bellerport, with its officers, discipline, and fearful inmates. The tale is told with great vigour and consummate skill. There are also some very interesting papers by other writers, amongst which, as deserving of especial mention, are "Clouds," "The Margravine of Anspach," "John's Wife," and "In the Temple Gardens."—*Fraser* has an article entitled, "Concerning Things Slowly Learned." It is an essay so pregnant with practical wisdom that it deserves to be circulated as a tract, and studied by every family. A practice has grown up of late to which, we think, no just objection can be urged. It is the selection of the writings by particular persons in various periodicals, which at the time of their publication attracted especial attention. It is to be wished for the general good, that the author of the essay "Concerning Things Slowly Learned," would imitate this example. We believe both author and publisher would find an advantage in acting upon this suggestion; for a nobler collection of essays was never united together than those to which are attached the well-known initials "A. K. H. B."—The second number of the *St. James's* continues the powerful-written story, "Ralph the Bailiff," and the two contributions by Mrs. S. C. Hall, "Can Wrong be Right?" with "A Story for the Young of the Household."—*Blackwood* opens the May number with an awful broadside against Mr. Gladstone and his Budget, and roundly charges him with acting upon "a Machiavelian policy" in proposing it; at the same time succumbing to "the Manchester politicians," of whom *Blackwood* regards him as the future leader, and as laying down a rule of action in dealing with the finances, which must lead "to the perpetuation of the Income Tax, which is direct taxation in the very worst form." The heavy political articles of our Tory contemporary are relieved by two light, well-written tales, "Mrs. Beauchamp's Vengeance" and "The Executor." The *Dublin University* rakes up the old story of the mutilated despatches respecting the Affghan wars. To use the words of the writer of the article, all this labour "seems very much like blowing at the ashes of yesterday's fire." In an article upon "China," the Irish Tory periodical disparages the authority of every one who has written on the subject; and he places as little reliance upon the statements of Mr. Wingrove Cooke, as upon the opinions of Sir John Bowring. The writer believes in nobody but himself. Like the man in Bedlam, he fancies that all the wisdom and sagacity of the world are concentrated in his own person; and that outside there is nought to be seen but folly, idiocy, and insanity. We are prepared to pin our faith upon the assertions of men of whom the world knows something, in preference to adopting the views of one who is utterly unknown to fame.—There are five well-written and very instructive articles in *The Geologist*: "A lecture on Coal," by Mr. Salter; "Remarks on 'the Darwinian theory,'" by Mr. Hutton; "Distribution of Cephalaspis and Pteraspis," by Mr. Roberts; "Lunar Relations of Earthquakes," by Mr. M. A. Perrey; and "Capillary Infiltration of Water on Rock Strata."—We observe with pleasure, in the *New Monthly*, a contribution from the original sub-editor, Mr. Cyrus Redding. This clever article is entitled "Desultory Thoughts on British Art." A curious and learned discourse with reference to dandified soldiers and the unhappy sybarite, Emperor "Otho," is supplied by "Sir Nathaniel," along with some very interesting particulars concerning "the early life of King Jerome."—In the *Art Journal* there are three very beautiful pictures: "The Royal Sisters," engraved by D. Desvachez, from the picture by J. Sant, in the royal collection at Buckingham Palace; "The Snow-storm," engraved by R. Brandard, from Turner's picture in the National Gallery; and "Temperance," engraved by T. W. Hunt, from the statue by Wills Brothers.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Orley Farm. By Anthony Trollope. With illustrations by J. E. Millais. Part III. London: Chapman and Hall, 193, Piccadilly.—As the story of "Orley Farm" proceeds it increases in interest. The author has introduced in the third part a new set of characters—the successful lawyer, Furnival, with his wife and daughter. We know in no work of modern fiction a more interesting and, at the same time, more pathetic description than that of the old and true wife finding herself neglected by her husband in his prosperity, and yet ever pondering over the bye-gone days when they were poor, and struggled bravely together, and were devotedly attached to each other. The pathos of the description is heightened, and not diminished, by the air of banter in which Mr. Trollope indulges when touching upon some of the details of this most natural character. We feel, upon a perusal of the third part of "Orley Farm," not the slightest doubt as to its being one of the most successful books yet given to the public by Mr. Trollope.

Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character. By E. B. Ramsay, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Dean of Edinburgh. The Second Series. Edinburgh: Edmonston & Douglas.—The first series of Dean Ramsay's "Reminiscences" have acquired a world-wide reputation; and the best praise that can be bestowed upon the present volume is the assurance that it is equal in interest, variety, and raciness of anecdote with its predecessor. The worthy author has done much for his own country by placing upon record illustrations of times and characters that but for him must have passed for ever into oblivion. In the introduction to the second series he mentions that he was at school in Yorkshire fifty years ago, and by his lively and graphic account of what he then saw and heard, he has afforded the example to

others of what may be accomplished in England, by reminiscences of the olden time. Here is a specimen of the author's "old England" reminiscences:—

"The small farmers of the West of England whom I remember, were a curious race. They were far behind the present enlightened and improved class of tenants. They were very illiterate—often very stupid in regard to general intelligence; but were, nevertheless, sharp enough in matters that concerned their own interest, and had that acuteness or mother wit which is often found in the illiterate. A Somerset clergyman, a friend of mine, who knew the character of the people well, used to say of this class, the old-fashioned farmers, in regard to their doing their landlords or the parson—'We have heard much of witchcraft, and priestcraft, and other crafts, but commend me to native, genuine, unsophisticated clown-craft.'"

In every page of Dean Ramsay's "Reminiscences," there is something very pleasant to read—something well worth remembering, and which, but for him, would, in all probability, have remained for ever unknown.

Gleanings in Graveyards: a Collection of Curious Epitaphs. Collected and compiled by Horatio Edward Norfolk, Honorary Secretary to the Chelsea Athenæum. London: John Russell Smith, Soho-square. It is well observed by the learned and diligent compiler of this very amusing volume, that though England cannot equal other lands in the magnificence or beauty of its monumental buildings or inscriptions, it has certainly proved itself to be "by no means backward in the production of epitaphs of a curious and absurd character." This volume superabounds with epitaphs, to which a double interest attaches—the oddity or quaintness of the ideas embodied in them, combined with the fact of their indubitable authenticity. The editor takes upon himself the responsibility of admitting no epitaph into his volume for the genuineness of which he has not been well assured. Our reliance is placed upon his care and diligence in this respect; and for the purpose of showing how amusing is his volume, and how well worthy of being universally known, we take, at random, a few extracts from it. The following epitaph is given at page 1, as taken from a tombstone at Edworth in Bedfordshire:—

"Here lies father, and mother, and sister, and I,
We all died within the space of one year,
They all be buried at Whimble except I,
And I be buried here."

In p. 2 is the following epitaph, from the same burial place:—

"Here lyeth the body of Daniel Knight,
Who all my lifetime lived in spite.
Base flatterers sought me to undoe,
And made me sign what was not true.
Reader take care, when'er you venture,
To trust a canting, false deceiver,

Who died June 11th, in the 61st year of his age, 1756."

In p. 3, and from the same burial place:—

"Here lies the body of Thomas Proctor,
Who lived and died without a doctor."

In p. 8 is an epitaph on Richard Carter, taken from Iver in Buckinghamshire:—

"An honest man, a friend sincere,
What more can be said? He's buried here."

In p. 9, from Wycombe:—

"Here lies one, whose rest
Gives me a restless life;
Because I've lost a good
And virtuous wife."

In p. 10, an epitaph from All Saints, Cambridge:—

"She took the cup of life to sip,
Too bitter 'twas to drain;
She put it meekly from her lip,
And went to sleep again."

We take from the same page (p. 10) the two following paragraphs:—

"At Babraham (Cambridgeshire) is this (epitaph) on Orazio Palovici, who was the last deputed to this country to collect the Peter pence; but instead of returning to Rome, he divided the spoil with the Queen (Elizabeth), and bought the estate of Babraham:—

"Here lies Orazio Palovici,
Who robb'd the Pope to pay the Queen.
He was a thief. A thief? Thou liest!
But why? He robb'd but Antichrist."

"Him Death with besom swept from Babraham,
Unto the bosom of old Abraham;
Then came Hercules, with his club,
And knocked him down to Beelzebub."

"At Wood Ditton, on a grave-stone in which is fixed an iron dish, according to the instructions of the deceased:—

"ON WILLIAM SYMONS, OB. 1753, ÆT. 80.

"Here lies my corpse, who was the man
That loved a sop in the dripping-pan;
But now, believe me, I am dead,
See how the pan stands at my head.
Still for the sops till the last I cried,
But could not eat, and so I died.
My neighbours, they perhaps will laugh,
When they do read my epitaph."

From these specimens to be found in the first few pages of the volume, it may easily be surmised how abundant are the materials with which it is supplied.

The Insect Hunters, and other Poems. By Edward Newman. Second edition. London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster-row.—This is a very charming volume. It is a renewal of a miracle more than once performed by Martial (Lib. iv., Ep. 32; Lib. vi., Ep. 15)—enshrining an insect in the pellucid amber of immortal verse.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—*Madame Constance; the Autobiography of a Frenchwoman in England*. Edited by Selina Bunbury, author of "A Life in Sweden." Two Vols. London: T. C. Newby, 30, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square.—*The Cruise of the Daring*. A Tale of the Sea. By C. F. Armstrong, author of "The Two Midshipmen," "The Two Buccaneers," "The Warhawk," "The Lily of Devon," "The Young Commander," &c. &c. Three Vols. London: T. C. Newby, 30, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square.—*Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion*, derived from the literal fulfilment of Prophecy, particularly as illustrated by the history of Jews, and by the discoveries of recent travellers. By Alexander Keith, D.D. Thirty-eighth edition, much enlarged. London: T. Nelson & Sons, Paternoster-row; Edinburgh and New York.—*The History and Destiny of the World and the Church, according to Scripture*. By Alexander Keith, D.D., author of "Evidence of Prophecy," &c. Part First. The Four Monarchies; and the Papacy, Romanists, the Witnesses. Illustrated by upwards of thirty coins, medals, &c. London: T. Nelson & Sons, Paternoster-row; Edinburgh and New York.—*Philosophy of the Infinite; a Treatise on Man's Knowledge of the Infinite Being*, in answer to Sir William Hamilton and Dr. Mansel. By the Rev. Henry Calderwood, Greyfriars United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. Second edition, greatly enlarged. London and Cambridge: Macmillan & Co., 23, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.—*Rationalism, the Last Scourge of the Church*. By T. W. Christie, B.A. Edinburgh: Paton & Ritchie, 81, Princes-street.—*A Commentary*

on the Book of Genesis; for the use of readers of the English version of the Bible. By Henry Charles Groves, M.A., Perpetual Curate of Mullavelly, Dioc. Armagh. London and Cambridge: Macmillan, 23, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.—*Redemption: some of the aspects of the Work of Christ, considered in a course of Sermons.* By the Rev. Richard Meux Benson, M.A., Student of Christ Church, and Perpetual Curate of Cowley, Oxon. London: J. T. Hayes, Lyall-place, Eaton-square.—*The Facts of the Four Gospels.* An Essay. By Frederick Leeböhm. London: Longman, Green, Longman, & Roberts.—*Brief Exposition of the Prophecies of Daniel and St. John, respecting the latter three times and a-half.* By Thomas Stephen, author of "A History of Scotland," &c. &c. London: Bosworth & Harrison, 215, Regent-street.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Messrs. William Blackwood will publish this day, the "New Examen; or, an Inquiry into the Evidence relating to certain passages in the late Lord Macaulay's History concerning the Duke of Marlborough—the Massacre of Glencoe—the Highlands of Scotland—Viscount Dundee—William Penn," &c., by John Paget, Barrister-at-Law.

M. Paul du Chaillu, the distinguished traveller who is about publishing an account of his adventures in the Gorilla country, with Mr. John Murray, has consented to become one of the stewards at the forthcoming Literary Fund Dinner.

Mr. Murray is about to publish a new edition of the works of Jonathan Swift, with an Introductory Life, Journals, and Letters. The late C. R. Leslie's life of Sir Joshua Reynolds, which is to be edited by Mr. Tom Taylor, may shortly be expected.

"The Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians," by the late Mr. Edward William Lane, is about to be issued in a fifth edition. The work will be enlarged, with additions and improvements, from a copy annotated by the author; to be edited by his nephew, E. Stanley Poole.

Uniform with Conybeare and Howson's "Life and Epistles of St. Paul," Messrs. Longman have in preparation "The Lives of St. Peter and St. John," with an account of their writings, and of the state of the Christian Church at the close of the Apostolic age, by the Rev. F. C. Cook, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen.

Messrs. Macmillan have just issued a new series of "Tracts for Priests and People." The first is by Mr. Thomas Hughes, author of "Tom Brown at Oxford," &c. The title is "Religio Laici." No. 2 is in the press.

Messrs. Bell & Daldy have two new volumes of poems in the press,—"Teuton," by Mr. J. C. Reuthmüller, and a volume by Mr. Ashe. Mr. George Harris is also preparing an "Essay on Civilization" for the above firm.

Messrs. Saunders & Otley have the following new works in the press:—"Loving and Being Loved," a novel, by the author of "Zingra the Gipsy;" "A Woman's Wanderings in the Western World," a volume of American travels; "Ecclesia Restituta," by the Rev. F. C. Massingberd; "Letters to Sir Fitzroy Kelly from his Daughter;" "The Rock in the South Atlantic," by Mr. Frank Fowler; "The Reminiscences of an Attorney;" "Ruth Baynard's Story;" "Edmondale;" and "Vanity Church."

"My Heart's in the Highlands" is the title of the new tale by the author of "The Nut-Brown Maids," which Messrs. Parker, Bourn, & Co. will shortly publish.

Messrs. Longman will publish early in May, "The Alps; or, Sketches of Life and Nature in the Mountains," by H. Berlepsch. Translated by the Rev. Leslie Stephen.

Mr. Charles Boner's new work, "Forest Creatures," is nearly ready. It will contain accounts of the Wild Boar; the Roe, a new wonder in natural history; the Red Deer; the Fallow Deer; the Cock of the Woods; the Black Cock; and Homer, the Sportsman.

Messrs. Longman have announced vols. 1 and 2 of "The Life and Letters of Francis Bacon," including all his occasional works, namely, letters, speeches, tracts, state papers, devices, private memoranda, and all authentic writings not already included among the philosophical, literary, or professional works, newly collected, revised, and set out in chronological order, with a Commentary, by James Spedding, of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall have in the press the following new works:—"Forays among the Salmon and Deer," by Mr. T. Conway; "A Cruise in the Claymore, on the Coast of Syria, during the present troubles," with illustrations, by Mrs. Hervey; a novel, by the author of "Digby Grand," forming the new volume of Chapman & Hall's standard editions of popular authors, entitled "Tilbury Nogo;" and a new work by Dr. Benjamin Ridge, called "Ourselves, our Food, and our Physic."

Messrs. James Hogg & Sons will publish immediately another of their charming tales for the young, entitled "The Leighs; or, the Discipline of Daily Life," by Miss Palmer.

Messrs. Groombridge & Son will issue early in May, the second volume of the "Magnet Stories," for summer days and winter nights. Mrs. S. C. Hall, G. E. Sargeant, and Mark Lemon are amongst the contributors.

During the ensuing week Messrs. Longman will publish "Maidenthorpe; or, Interesting Events about the year 1825," by John Dickenson, F.R.S.

Messrs. Van Voorst have determined upon re-issuing "Sowerby's British Wild Flowers," to be continued monthly until completed. Each part will contain four plates, comprising 80 coloured figures, and eight pages of descriptive letter-press.

Mr. Booth, of Regent-street, has a new novel in the press, by the author of "Twenty Years in the Church," the Rev. James Pycroft, entitled "Agony Point."

Messrs. Chapman & Hall will publish immediately "La Beata," a novel in two volumes, by Mr. Thomas Adolphus Trollope.

Mr. Newby has three new novels in preparation: "Forgiveness," "Retribution," and one with the somewhat singular title of "Out of her Element."

A very interesting work on the Syrian Massacres, written by Mr. J. Lewis Farley, the well-known author of "Two Years in Syria," is announced for publication by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans. Mr. Farley is, and has long been, a resident at Constantinople, and, from his position there, cannot fail to be able to command good information.

Messrs. Macmillan will publish immediately "The Life of Edward Forbes," the naturalist, by George Wilton; "The Golden Treasury," a collection of the best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English language, selected and arranged by F. T. Palgrave; and "A Critical History of the Progress of the Calculus of Variations during the Nineteenth Century," by the Rev. I. Todhunter.

On Thursday, May 9th, Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson will sell by auction a valuable collection of Spanish classical and miscellaneous literature, formed by the late Mr. Richard Ford, author of the "Handbook for the Traveller in Spain," &c. The collection also includes some valuable books in English and foreign literature.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

FROM APRIL 26TH TO MAY 2ND.

Alford's Greek Testament. Vol. IV. Part I. Second edition. 8vo. 18s. Rivingtons.
— Vol IV. complete. £1 12s. Rivingtons.
Arnold (Matthew). The Popular Education of France. 8vo. cloth. 10s. 6d. Longman.
Bateman (J. C.). Forgiveness: A Novel. 3 Vols. Post 8vo. cloth. £1. 11s. 6d. Newby.
Barrish (Edward). An Introduction to Practical Pharmacy. Second edition. 8vo. cloth. 15s. Trübner.
Bickersteth (Archdeacon). Catechetical Exercises on the Apostles' Creed. 18mo. Second edition. Cloth. 2s. Rivingtons.
Bulwer's Novels.—Vol. XIX.—Last of the Barons. Vol. 2. 12mo. cloth. 5s. Blackwood.
Buckland (A. J.). Twelve Links of the Golden Chain. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Bouverie (Rev. F. W.). Six Short Stories for Short People. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Black's Guide to Surrey. Fcap. 8vo. cloth. 5s. Longman.
Chatelaine (M. de). Henrietta and the Ayah, and My Little Schoolfellow. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Coghlan's Guide to North Italy. 12mo. limp cloth. 2s. 6d. Trübner.
— Rhine & Switzerland. 12mo. cloth. 2s. Trübner.
Clarke (Hyde). New and Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language. Second edition Weale's Educational Series. 12mo. cloth limp. 3s. 6d. Lockwood.
Crompton (S.). The Life of Robinson Crusoe. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Chatelaine (M. de). The Captive Skylark. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Child's First Book about Birds. By a Country Clergyman. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Contes Faciles. By the Author of "Amy Herbert." Post 8vo. cloth. 3s. 6d. Longman.
De Viris Illustribus Urbis Rome, a Romulo ad Augustum. A Latin Reading Book. By the Editor of the Graded Reading Book. 12mo. cloth. 2s. Rivingtons.
Dean's Coloured Toy Books, Mother Hubbard, Cock Robin, Little Red Ridinghood. 1s. 6d. each. Dean & Sons.
Dalrymple (Dr. D.). On Climate of Egypt. Post 8vo. cloth. 4s. Churchill.
Dickenson (John). Maidenthorpe; or, Interesting Events about the Year 1825. 2 vols. post 8vo. cloth. £1. 1s. Longman.
Elizabeth C. Juvenile Tales for Juvenile Readers. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Edwards (Miss M. B.). Alley and her School-fellows. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Fairbairn (Wm.). Iron: Its History and Manufacture. Post 8vo. cloth. 6s. Longman.
Goodrich (A. M.). The Myrtle and the Heather. 2 vols. in 1, cloth gilt. 5s. Dean & Son.
— Gwen; or, The Cousins. 5s. Dean & Son.
Grey (Hon. C.). Life and Opinions of Charles, Earl Grey. 1 vol. 8vo. cloth. 14s. Bentley.
Herodotus. Vols. 1, 2, 3, with English Notes. Weale's Greek Series, vols. 13, 14, 15. 12mo. boards. 1s. 6d. Lockwood.
Henniker (Rev. R.). Stories from English History. 6s. Hogg & Sons.
Hill (Principal). Extracts from Lectures on Divinity. Post 8vo. cloth. 2s. 6d. Blackwood.
Lane (E. W.). The Manners and Customs of

the Modern Egyptians. Fifth edition. 8vo. cloth. 18s. Murray.
Law (Lady Charlotte). A Winter Wreath of Illustrative Tales. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Lyttelton (Lord). Four Gospels and the Acts. New edition. Post 8vo. 4s. 6d. Rivingtons.
Longfellow's Poetical Works. Illustrated. 12mo. cloth. 5s. Without illustrations, 3s. 6d. Bohn.
Leicester (C.). Susan and her Doll, and the Little Orphan's History. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Little Paul and his Moss Wreaths. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Macbrar (Rev. R. M.). The Africans at Home. Fcap. 8vo. cloth. 7s. 6d. Longman.
Money (J. W. B.). Java; or How to Manage a Colony. 2 vols. Post 8vo. £1. 1s. Hurst & Blackett.
Miller (J.). Nephalism the True Temperance. Cheap edition. 12mo. cloth. 1s. Smith & Elder.
Milligen (Dr.). Stories of Torres Vedras. Naval and Military Library. Vol. 2. 2s. C. H. Clark.
Nugent (L.). Easy Talks for Little Folks and Mid-day. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Nugent (L.). The Children's Island. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Nicholls (B. E.). Book of Proverbs. 12mo. 2s. Hamilton.
Norfolk (Duke of). Lives of Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and of Anne Dacres, his wife. Second edition. Post 8vo. 5s. Hurst & Blackett.
Priestley's (J.) Memorials of John Hessel. Fourth edition. 12mo. 3s. 6d. Hamilton.
Railway Library. Oliver Ellis. 2s. Routledge.
Rudimentary and Practical Instruction in Science of Railway Construction. Weale's Rudimentary Series. Vol. 62. 12mo. cloth. 1s. 6d. Lockwood.
Swayne (G. S.). Obstetric Aphorisms. Second edition. Fcap. cloth. 3s. 6d. Churchill.
Scenes and Narratives from Grecian History. 18mo. 2s. Hamilton.
Stevens (Abel). The History of the Religious Movement of the Eighteenth Century called Methodism. Vol. I. New edition. Post 8vo. cloth. 3s. 6d. Heylen.
Stirling (C. M.). Prince Arthur; or, the Four Trials. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Thorpe (B.). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Two vols. Royal 8vo. half-bound. 17s. Longman.
Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London. Vol. II., 1860. 8vo. cloth. 15s. Longman.
Teachers and Taught. 18mo. 1s. Hamilton.
The Science of Happiness. By a Friend to Humanity. 8vo. cloth. 3s. 6d. Trübner.
Verey (J.). Up in the Clouds. Fcap. boards. 2s. C. H. Clark.
Walpole's Correspondence. Vol. III. 8vo. cloth. 9s. Bohn.
Watson (Rev. J. S.). Life of Richard Porson. 8vo. cloth. 14s. Longman.
Wood (Rev. G. J.). Common Objects of Microscope. 1s. Routledge.
Williams (Caleb). Crystal Palace Library. 4d. Wine-office-court.
Webb (Mrs.). Loyal Charlie Bentham. 1s. 6d. Hogg & Sons.
Wyndham (Francis). Wild Life in Fields of Norway. Post 8vo. cloth. 10s. 6d. Longman.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

- 8½ P.M. Entomological—12, Bedford-row.
8 " Architects, 9, Conduit-street, Hanover-square. Anniversary.
2 " Royal Institution—General Monthly Meeting.

TUESDAY.

- 8 " Civil Engineers—25, Great George-street, Westminster. "Continued Discussion on Mr. Bidder's Paper on the National Defences."
8 " Pathological—Berners-street, Oxford-street.
8 " Photographic—King's College, Strand.
3 " Royal Institution—Albemarle-street, Mr. John Hullah, "On the History of Modern Music."

WEDNESDAY.

- 8 " Society of Arts—John-street, Adelphi. "On the Trade and Commerce of the Eastern Archipelago." By Mr. P. L. Simmonds.
8 " Geological. 1. "Description of two Bone-Caves in the Mountain of Ker, at Massat, Department of the Arriege." By M. Alfred Fontan. Communicated by M. E. Lartet, For. Mem. G.S. 2. "Notes on some Further Discoveries of Flint Implements in the Drift; with some suggestions for Further Search." By Joseph Prestwich, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S.
8 " Graphic—Flaxman Hall, University College.
8 " Microscopical—King's College, Strand.
8½ " Royal Society of Literature—4, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square.
8½ " Archaeological Society—32, Sackville-street.

THURSDAY.

- 8½ " Royal Society—Burlington House. The Croonian Lecture, "On the Relations between Muscular Irritability, Cadaveric Rigidity, and Putrefaction." By Dr. E. Brown-Séquard, F.R.S.
8½ " Antiquaries—Somerset House.
8 " Philological—Somerset House.
8 " Artists and Amateurs—Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
3 " Royal Institution—Mr. W. Pengelly, "On the Devonian Age of the World."

FRIDAY.

- 8 " Astronomical—Somerset House.
8 " Royal Institution—"On the Relation of the Animal and Vegetable to the Inorganic Kingdom." By W. S. Savory, Esq., F.R.S.

SATURDAY.

- 3 " Asiatic—5, New Burlington-street.
3 " Royal Botanic—Inner Circle, Regent's Park.
3 " Royal Institution—Albemarle-street. Professor Max. Müller, "On the Science of Language."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—ARRANGEMENTS

FOR THE WEEK ending Saturday, May 11.
Monday, open at Nine. Other days at Ten. Monday to Thursday, Orchestral Band and Great Organ Performances—Machinery in Motion—New Picture Gallery—and all the usual attractions. Admission, 1s.; children under twelve, 6d.

On Tuesday, Readings of Shakspeare, by Mrs. Henry Nicholls.
On Thursday, Lectures by Dr. Chr. Dresser, on Botany, in the Lecture Theatre of the School of Science and Art.
Friday, Second Grand Opera Concert this season. Admission, 7s. 6d.

Saturday, GRAND CONCERT. First appearance of MADAME ALBONI in London this season; Miss Arabella Goddard, Mdlle. Sedlatzak, and Signor Giulio Regondi, &c. Admission, 2s. 6d.; children under twelve, 1s.

Sunday, open at half-past One, to Shareholders, gratuitously, by tickets.

The New Season Tickets, at Two Guineas and One Guinea each, and at Half-a-Guinea for children under twelve, may be had at the Crystal Palace; at 2, Exeter Hall; and at the usual agents of the Company.

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President, the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G., &c., &c.

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Subscribers may select to the amount of their subscription, from a variety of copyright Works of Art, in ceramic statuary, woodwork ware, metal, or photographs, chromo-lithographs, &c., with ONE CHANCE FOR EACH GUINEA SUBSCRIBED, in the next distribution of prizes.

Specimens on view in the Crystal Palace, and at the offices of the Local Agents.

By order,
I. WILKINSON, Sec.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER

COLOURS.—The FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, at their GALLERY, 5, Pall-mall East (close to the National Gallery). From Nine till Dusk.—Admittance 1s. Catalogue 6d.

JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

HOLMAN HUNT'S GREAT PICTURE.

The EXHIBITION of HOLMAN HUNT'S celebrated PICTURE of the "Finding of the Saviour in the Temple," begun in Jerusalem, in 1854, and completed in 1860, is now OPEN to the Public, at the GERMAN GALLERY, 168, NEW BOND STREET, from 12 to 6. To which are added, for a few weeks, Views of "JERUSALEM," "NAZARETH," and other Water-Colour Drawings made by Mr. HOLMAN HUNT in the East, and his Picture of "CLAUDIO and ISABELLA." Admission, 1s.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED, WITH

MR. JOHN PARRY, will give their entirely new and ORIGINAL ENTERTAINMENT, "OUR CARD BASKET," and the "TWO RIVAL COMPOSERS," EVERY EVENING (except Saturday) at 8; THURSDAY AND SATURDAY AFTERNOONS at 3, at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, REGENT-STREET. Unreserved seats, 1s., 2s. Stalls, 3s. Stall Chairs, 5s., can be secured at the Gallery, in advance, and at Messrs. Cramer, Beale, and Co's., 201, Regent-street.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

On MONDAY, May 6th, and during the week, the brilliantly successful New COMEDY of BLACK SHEEP, in which Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Compton, Mr. Howe, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Charles Young, Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Poynter, Mrs. Griffiths, &c. will appear. After which, the revived Melo-Drama of THE MILLER AND HIS MEN, with New Scenery and Effects by Fenton, and all the Original Music, by the late Sir Henry Bishop.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. B. WEBSTER.—Re-appearance of Mr. and Mrs. DION BOUCICAULT, in the great sensation Drama of THE COLLEEN BAWN.—The ADELPHI CENSUS taken every evening. On MONDAY and during the Week, a new Farce, A TURKISH BATH.—Messrs. J. L. Toole and Paul Bedford.—THE COLLEEN BAWN.—Messrs. Dion Boucicault, D. Fisher, Billington, Stephenson, Mrs. Dion Boucicault, Miss Woolgar, Mrs. Billington, and Mrs. Chatterley.—THE CENSUS.—Messrs. J. L. Toole, Eburne, and Miss H. Kelly, Miss E. Thorne. Commence at Seven.

CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL, BROMPTON,

S.W.—Nearly TWO HUNDRED IN-PATIENTS and some hundreds of Out-Patients are constantly under treatment at this Hospital. The severity of the past season having heavily increased the demands upon this Charity, FUNDS are GREATLY NEEDED, and are earnestly solicited.

PHILIP ROSE, Hon. Sec.
HENRY DOBBIN, Sec.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE

SKIN, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

President.—SAMUEL GURNEY, Esq., M.P.

PECUNIARY AID IS EARNESTLY SOLICITED for this useful Charity, which has relieved upwards of 107,000 patients since its establishment in 1841, and continues to be greatly resorted to by the poorer classes of the metropolis and of all parts of the kingdom. Like similar institutions in Paris and Vienna, it affords the most extensive field for the study of the numerous and distressing cutaneous disorders from which few trades or callings are exempt. The Hospital is provided with beds for women and children, and with a suite of medicated baths.

Particulars respecting patients or students may be had on application to the Secretary.

GEORGE BURT, F.R.C.S., Hon. Secretary.
ALFRED S. RICHARDS, Secretary.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

13, St. James's-square, London.

EARLY PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.

Policies in existence on June 30th, 1861, will participate in the Seventh Bonus to be declared in January, 1862; so that persons who complete Assurances before June 30th, 1861, will share in that division, although one premium only will have been paid.

Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposal can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or of

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary & Secretary.

ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS, AND FROM ANY CAUSE, may be provided against by an Annual payment of £3 to the RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY, which secures £1,000 at death by accident, or £8 weekly for Injury.

No EXTRA PREMIUM FOR VOLUNTEERS.

One person in every Twelve insured is injured yearly by Accident. £75,000 has been already paid as Compensation. For further information apply to the Provincial Agents, the Railway Stations, or at the Head Office, 64, Cornhill, (late 3, Old Broad-street.)

Annual Income £40,000.

CAPITAL ONE MILLION.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

64, Cornhill, E.C., January, 1861.

WESTERN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

3, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

Established 1842.

Persons assuring in this office are offered the following accommodative modes of paying the premiums, viz.:

- 1st. Annually, quarterly, or half-yearly.
- 2nd. On a decreasing or ascending scale.
- 3rd. For a term of years only, securing a free policy afterwards for life.
- 4th. With a fixed annual reduction of premiums.
- 5th. On the half-credit system, suspending half the annual premiums for seven years; the debt to be allowed to stand over until death.

Forms of Proposal, and every information afforded, on application to the Actuary.

ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A.,
Author of "Treatise on Savings Banks."

Agents wanted in those towns where the society is not already represented.

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48, Moorgate-street, London.

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Thomas Farmer, Esq. Frederic Mildred, Esq.
William Skinner, Esq. George Smith, LL.D., F.A.S.
William Betts, Esq.

Chairman—CHARLES HARWOOD, Esq., F.S.A.

The total Annual Revenue is upwards of £95,000.
The total Claims paid since the establishment of the Society amount to £200,000.

BONUS.—From the profits of the Society, the Directors have recently divided as a Bonus or Profit the sum of £67,347, carrying on a balance of more than £180,000 for future expenses and bonus.

The thoroughly established character of the STAR, and the profitable nature of its business transactions, make it a most available medium for family provision.

J. HOBSON, F.S.S., Secretary.

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Solicitors—Messrs. Davies, Son, Campbell, and Co.
Capital £500,000
Invested Funds £110,000
Annual Income £30,000

To the security thus afforded, the Office adds the advantages of moderate rates and liberal management.

The Bonuses declared have been unusually large, and amount in some cases to a return of four-fifths of the premium paid. No charges whatever are made beyond the premium.

For those who desire to provide for themselves in old age, sums may be assured payable on attaining a given age, as 50, 55, or 60, or at death, if it occur previously.

Endowments for Children are made payable on attaining the ages of 14, 18, or 21, so as to meet the demands which education or settlement in life may create. By the payment of a slightly increased rate, the premiums are returned in the event of previous death.

The Tables of Rates here given are of necessity very limited, but every information will be readily afforded on application.

HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE

COMPANY, 8, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, S.W.

The Hon. FRANCIS SCOTT, Chairman.

CHARLES BERWICK CURTIS, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Fourth Division of Profits.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Parties desirous of participating in the fourth division of profits to be declared on policies effected prior to the 31st of December, 1861, should make immediate application. There have already been three divisions of profits, and the bonuses divided have averaged nearly 2 per cent. per annum on the sums assured, or from 30 to 100 per cent. on the premiums paid, without the risk of co-partnership.

To show more clearly what these bonuses amount to, the three following cases are given as examples:—

Sum Insured.	Bonuses added.	Amount payable up to Dec. 1854.
£5,000	£1,997 10	£6,997 10
1,000	397 10	1,397 10
100	39 15	139 15

Notwithstanding the large additions, the premiums are on the lowest scale compatible with security; in addition to which advantages one half of the premiums may, if desired, for the term of five years, remain unpaid at 5 per cent. interest, the other half being advanced by the Company, without security or deposit of the policy.

The assets of the Company at the 31st December, 1859, amounted to £690,140. 19s., all of which had been invested in Government and other approved securities.

No charge for Volunteer Military Corps while serving in the United Kingdom.

Policy stamps paid by the office.

For prospectuses, &c., apply to the Resident Director, No. 8, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall.

By order,

E. L. BOYD, Resident Director.

ALBERT AND MEDICAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE: 7, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, London, S.W.
CITY BRANCH—63, Moorgate-street, E.C.

The Business of the MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY having been amalgamated with the ALBERT LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, the united businesses will henceforth be carried on under the above title.

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William Beattie, Esq., M.D. Chas. Grenville Mansell, Esq., late Director of the Medical, Invalid, and General Life Assurance Society.
Lieutenant-Colonel James Croudace. Sir T. Phillips, late Director of the Medical, Invalid, and General Life Assurance Society.
Charles Hopkinson, Esq., late Trustee of the Medical, Invalid, and General Life Assurance Society. George Raymond, Esq.

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William Hayes, Esq. Jervis John Jervis, Esq.
J. L. R. Kettle, Esq.
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LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Assurances, Annuities, and Endowments granted, and every Provision for Families arranged. Premiums on the half-credit system. Extension of limits for voyaging and residence at ordinary rates. Naval and Military Lives, not in active service, assured at ordinary rates.

DISEASED LIVES.

The experience of the Medical Life Office having fully established the accuracy of their special Tables for Diseased Lives, these risks will be taken as heretofore.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

Assurances effected at the most moderate rates of Premium which recent data justify, and more than ordinary facilities given to Assurers proceeding abroad.

DAYS OF GRACE.

Payment secured when death occurs during days of grace by an endorsement upon the policy.

GUARANTEE DEPARTMENT.

In this Department the Company guarantees the fidelity of persons filling or about to fill situations of trust; and when a Life Assurance is combined with such Guarantee, a considerable reduction is made in the Premium for the latter.

Accumulated Fund and Subscribed Capital exceed £770,000
The Amount paid to the Public in Claims and Bonuses reaches to more than 800,000
Annual Income from Life Premiums upwards of 220,000
The new business is now progressing at the rate of more than £25,000 per annum.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.—REDUCTION IN SCALE OF PREMIUMS.

THE EUROPEAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY ISSUES POLICIES OF GUARANTEE, at reduced rates, for officials in or under the Treasury, Customs, Inland Revenue, Board of Trade, Poor-law Board, Admiralty, and other Public Departments, and for Bank and Railway Clerks, and persons in Commercial Employments.

Further reductions on the combination of Life Assurance, with guarantee. Annuities granted on favourable terms.

Forms and every information may be obtained at the Chief Office, 2, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

LONDON 82, KING WILLIAM STREET.

EDINBURGH 3, GEORGE STREET (Head Office).

DUBLIN 66, UPPER SACKVILLE STREET.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1861.

The Thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Standard Life Assurance Company was held at Edinburgh, on Monday, the 25th of February.

The following results were communicated in the Report by the Directors, showing the operations of the Company during the year 1860:—

Amount proposed for Assurance during the year, contained in 1,384 Proposals	£907,747 0 0
Amount of Assurances accepted, and for which Policies were issued, contained in 1,207	705,897 0 0
Annual Premiums on New Policies	22,565 4 6
Claims by Death during the year, exclusive of Bonus Additions	104,326 14 8
Annual Revenue at 15th November, 1860	304,161 13 7
Arising from Premiums	£227,593 4 1
From Interest on the Invested Funds	76,568 9 6
	£304,161 13 7

Accumulated Fund, invested in Government Securities, in land, mortgages, &c. 1,805,982 13 6

Average amount of New Assurances Annually for the last Fourteen Years, Half a Million sterling, being the largest amount of business transacted in that period by any insurance company.

WILL. THOS. THOMSON, Manager.

H. JONES WILLIAMS, Resident Secretary.

NOTE.—An Adjourned Meeting will be held early in May, to receive the Report on the Division of Profits for the past Quinquennial period.

WATERLOO LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.
THIS COMPANY OFFERS THE SECURITY
 of a Capital of £400,000 and the advantages of moderate rates. The last Bonus was in 1859, the next will be in 1864.
 Claims within the days of Grace paid by this Company.

NO EXTRA PREMIUM FOR VOLUNTEERS.
 This Company's Policies insure against ACCIDENT or DISEASE totally incapacitating the insured, for a small extra premium.

Sums of money may be deposited at interest, for fixed periods on upon terms of Special Arrangement.

PROSPECTUSES and FORMS on application to the HEAD OFFICE, 355, Strand, London.

DEPOSIT, ASSURANCE, AND DISCOUNT BANK.—FIVE PER CENT. on sums for fixed periods; or, according to the amount, at from Seven to Thirty days' notice. Three per Cent. at Call.
 G. H. LAW, Manager.
 5, Cannon-street, West, E.C.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY. THE NINTH YEAR.

Viscount Ranelagh and J. C. Cobbold, Esq., M.P.
 This Society was established for investment of capital and savings, and for securing eligible land investments in counties conferring the freehold franchise.

Prospectuses, explanatory of the Share, Deposit, Land, and Borrowing Departments, will be sent free of expense to any part of the world. Plans of estates, 6d. each; or 7d. by post.

CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, Secretary.
 Offices, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, London, W.C.

The present rate of interest on shares is 5 per cent., and on deposits 4 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, with privilege of prompt withdrawal when required; no partnership liability, and the taking of land quite optional.

By order of the Mortgagee.—Sussex.—Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Estates, comprising about 150 acres of Arable, Pasture, Meadow, Hop, and Wood, with Homesteads and Outbuildings in the parish of Burwash, about 1½ mile from the Ticehurst-road station, on the Tunbridge and Hastings Branch of the South-Eastern Railway; let to old tenants at very inadequate rents, with possession of the greater part in September next.

MR. T. S. SMITH will SELL by AUCTION,
 at the MART, on FRIDAY, May 10, at Twelve for One, in two lots, by order of the Mortgagee, as follows: Lot 1 comprises the compact FREEHOLD FARM, known as South-over, with capital farm house and agricultural buildings, garden, orchard, arable, meadow, pasture, hop, and wood land, in all about 65a. 1r. 31p.; the Copyhold Farm adjoining, known as Winter's, with homestead, outbuildings, arable, meadow, pasture, and woodland, in all about 74a. 0r. 9p., held under the Manor of Burwash. Lot 2. Tester's, consisting of homestead and cattle shed, and about eight acres of land, copyhold of the Manor of Robertsbridge. The whole let to old tenants, who have occupied for the last 37 years at very inadequate rents, amounting to £95 per annum.

Particulars, with conditions of sale and plans, obtained of Messrs. PARSON & LEE, Solicitors, 15, Coleman-street; at the Mart; and of Mr. T. SIDNEY SMITH, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, 42, Lombard-street, E.C.

WHEELER & WILSON'S NOTED LOCK STITCH SEWING MACHINES.

Sale Rooms, No. 462, OXFORD-STREET, LONDON.

Among their undoubted advantages are—

1. Elegance of model and finish.
2. Simplicity and thoroughness of construction, and consequent durability and freedom from derangement and need of repairs.
3. Ease of management and rapidity and quietness of operation.
4. Hemming and seaming attachments.
5. Beauty of stitch, alike on both sides of the fabric sewed.
6. Strength and firmness of seam, that will not rip nor ravel; and made with
7. Economy of thread.
8. Applicability to a variety of purposes and materials.

Machine on plain table£10
 Do. in half case£12
 Do. in full case£15

** The Outfit of each Machine includes Hemming and Seaming Gauges and everything necessary for its successful operation. Thorough instruction is given in the use of each Machine sold.

Descriptive pamphlet sent gratis.

FORD'S NEW JACKETS.—Drawings, &c., post-free.—An exceedingly pretty Hussar Jacket, which may be worn open or closed, is a most accommodating and useful shape. Ready through the season in Glacé Silk, Cachmere, and superfine Cloth, 21s. each, all beautifully braided.
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FORD'S ZOUAVE JACKETS.—Drawings, &c., post-free.—These still reign triumphant, Glacé Silk and Cachmere being most in favour, at a Guinea each.

FORD'S HALF-GUINEA CLOTH JACKETS.
 Drawings, &c., post-free.
 These are kept in tight, loose, and half-fitting shapes, and in nearly all colours.
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FORD'S NEW JACKETS.—Testimonials, spontaneous and uninvited from ladies in every part of the world, attest the high character and merits of these beautiful Jackets, as well as their suitability for every climate.
FORD'S JACKET ROOMS
 exhibit the largest Stock in Europe.

FORD'S NEW MANTLES.—Euphephon
 Paletots of Waterproof Summer Cloth, with quilted silk trimmings, 16s. 9d., 18s. 6d., and 21s. Rich Glacé Silk, 37s. 6d. and 62s. 6d. Drawings, &c., Free.
 T. FORD, Mantle Rooms, 42, Oxford-street, London.

FORD'S LONDON RIDING HABITS,
 3 to 10 guineas.
 Little Girls' Melton Habits, 2 guineas.
 Ladies' Riding Trousers, Chamois Leather, with black feet, 21s.
THOMAS FORD, 42, Oxford-street, W. (two doors from Newman-street).

BUNSEN AND KIRCHHOFF'S APPARATUS FOR SPECTRUM ANALYSIS,

As Described in the Supplement to "The London Review," May 4th, 1861,

IS MANUFACTURED BY

W. LADD,

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By Appointment to the Royal Institution of Great Britain,

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ELEMENTARY COLLECTION, to facilitate the study of this interesting Science, can be had, from Two Guineas to One Hundred, also Single Specimens, of J. TENNANT, 149, Strand, London, W.C. Mr. Tennant gives Practical Instruction in Mineralogy and Geology.

DRESSING CASES, DRESSING BAGS,
 and highly-finished elegancies for presentation, in great variety, ivory-handled table cutlery, every requisite for the toilet, and work-tables.—MECHI & BAZIN, 112, Regent-street; 4, Leadenhall-street; and Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

COLLARD & COLLARD'S NEW WEST-END ESTABLISHMENT, 16, Grosvenor-street, Bond-street, where all communications are to be addressed. Pianofortes of all classes for Sale and Hire.

STATUES, VASES, PEDESTALS, FOUNTAIN-BASINS, FLOWER-TRAYS, GATE-PIER TERMINALS, Flower Baskets and Pots, Balustrades, and Tracery for Terraces and every description of Garden Ornament in PATENT TERRA COTTA, by JOHN M. BLASHFIELD. Works: Stamford, Lincolnshire.
 The Patent Terra Cotta is warranted to stand frost.

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Reputed Measures.	Imperial Measure.
Quarts, 6s. 6d.; Pints, 4s.	Pints, 5s. per dozen.
Guinness' Extra Stout at the same Prices.	
Address:—BARBER & LEBLUX, 11, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, S.W.	

HEDGES & BUTLER invite attention to the following list of prices:—

Good Port	30s. and 36s. per doz.
Fine Old Port	42s. 48s. 54s. 60s.
Dinner Sherry	24s. 30s. "
High-class Pale, Golden and Brown Sherry	42s. 48s. 54s. "
St. Julien Claret and Medoc	21s. 30s. 36s. "
Chablis	36s. 42s. "
Champagne	42s. 48s. 60s. 66s. 78s. "
Finest Growth Clarets, 60s., 72s., 84s.; red and white Burgundy, 36s., 48s., to 84s.; Hock and Moselle, 36s., 48s., 60s., to 120s.; Old Pale Cognac Brandy, 60s. 72s. per dozen.	
East-India Madeira, Imperial Tokay, Vermuth, Frontignac, Constantia, and other rare Wines. Noyau, Maraschino, Curaçoa, Cherry Brandy, and other Foreign Liqueurs.	

On receipt of a Post-office Order or reference, any of the above will be forwarded immediately by

HEDGES & BUTLER,
 155, Regent-street, London, W., and 30, King's-road, Brighton.
 (Originally established A.D., 1687.)

DR. DE JONGH'S
 (Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium)

LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL,
 pronounced by the most eminent Medical Men throughout the world to be incomparably superior to all other kinds.

CONSUMPTION.
 The investigations of the most experienced pathologists have conclusively proved that Dr. DE JONGH'S Oil is unequalled as a remedy for Consumption, and that no other Oil can possibly produce the same salutary results. Allan G. Chatterway, Esq., the eminent Surgeon to the Leominster Infirmary, writes: "Having for some years extensively used Dr. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL, both in public and private practice in the treatment of consumption, I have no hesitation in stating that its effects are very far superior to those of any other Cod Liver Oil."

GENERAL DEBILITY.
 In cases of General Debility, the restorative powers of Dr. DE JONGH'S LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL have been remarkably manifested, and it has been resorted to with the most beneficial effects, after the whole range of ordinary tonics had been in vain exhausted. BENJAMIN CLARKE, Esq., M.R.C.S., F.L.S., in testifying to its extraordinary efficacy in his own case, observes:—"Having myself taken both the Pale Oil and Dr. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN OIL for Debility, I am able, from my own experience, to remark upon their effects and comparative usefulness as remedial agents. After the Pale Oil, and all other remedies that I could think of had failed, I tried, merely as a last resort, Dr. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN OIL; I received immediate relief, and its use was the means of my restoration to health."

Dr. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL is sold only in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 9s.; and labelled with his stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE CAN POSSIBLY BE GENUINE, by respectable Chemists.

SOLE CONSIGNERS:
ANSAR, HARFORD, & Co., 77, Strand, London, W.C.

CAUTION.—Beware of Proposed Substitutions.

66, QUEEN-STREET, LONDON, 23rd August, 1860.
 Messrs. R. WOTHERSPOON & Co., 46, Dunlop-street, Glasgow.

DEAR SIR,—I have, as requested, to-day visited the Royal Laundry, with reference to the advertisement of the Nottingham firm, who state that their Starch has been used for many years in the Royal Laundry, and have been assured by Mr. Thompson, the Superintendent, that none but yourselves have any right to state that they supply Starch to Her Majesty's Laundry, as no other Starch is there used, nor has been used for some years, but the Glenfield Patent Starch.

I have been further assured that your Starch continues to give complete satisfaction, and that though trial has been made of samples of various Starches, none of these have been found nearly equal in quality to the Glenfield.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,
 WM. BLACK.

BENSON'S WATCHES.

"Perfection of mechanism."—Morning Post.

Gold, 5 to 100 guineas; Silver, 2 to 50 guineas.

Send two stamps for "Benson's Illustrated Pamphlet," descriptive of every construction of Watch now made, with their prices.

Watches sent to all parts of the kingdom, free by post, or to India and the Colonies for 5s. extra.

33 & 34, Ludgate-hill. 46 & 47, Cornhill, London, E.C.
 Established 1749.

MORTLOCK'S CHINA WAREHOUSE, 250, OXFORD STREET.

SELLING OFF.

In consequence of the Marquis of Westminster's refusal to renew the Lease of the above premises (in connection with Park-street), JOHN MORTLOCK is anxious to decrease his RICH STOCK, and is prepared to make a great allowance for cash.

250, OXFORD-STREET, and 58, PARK-STREET, near Hyde-park.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH, used in the Royal Laundry, and pronounced by Her Majesty's Laundress to be the finest Starch she ever used.—Sold by all Chandlers, Grocers, &c. &c.

WOTHERSPOON & CO., Glasgow and London.

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of all rulings ready in stock, or made to any pattern on the premises.

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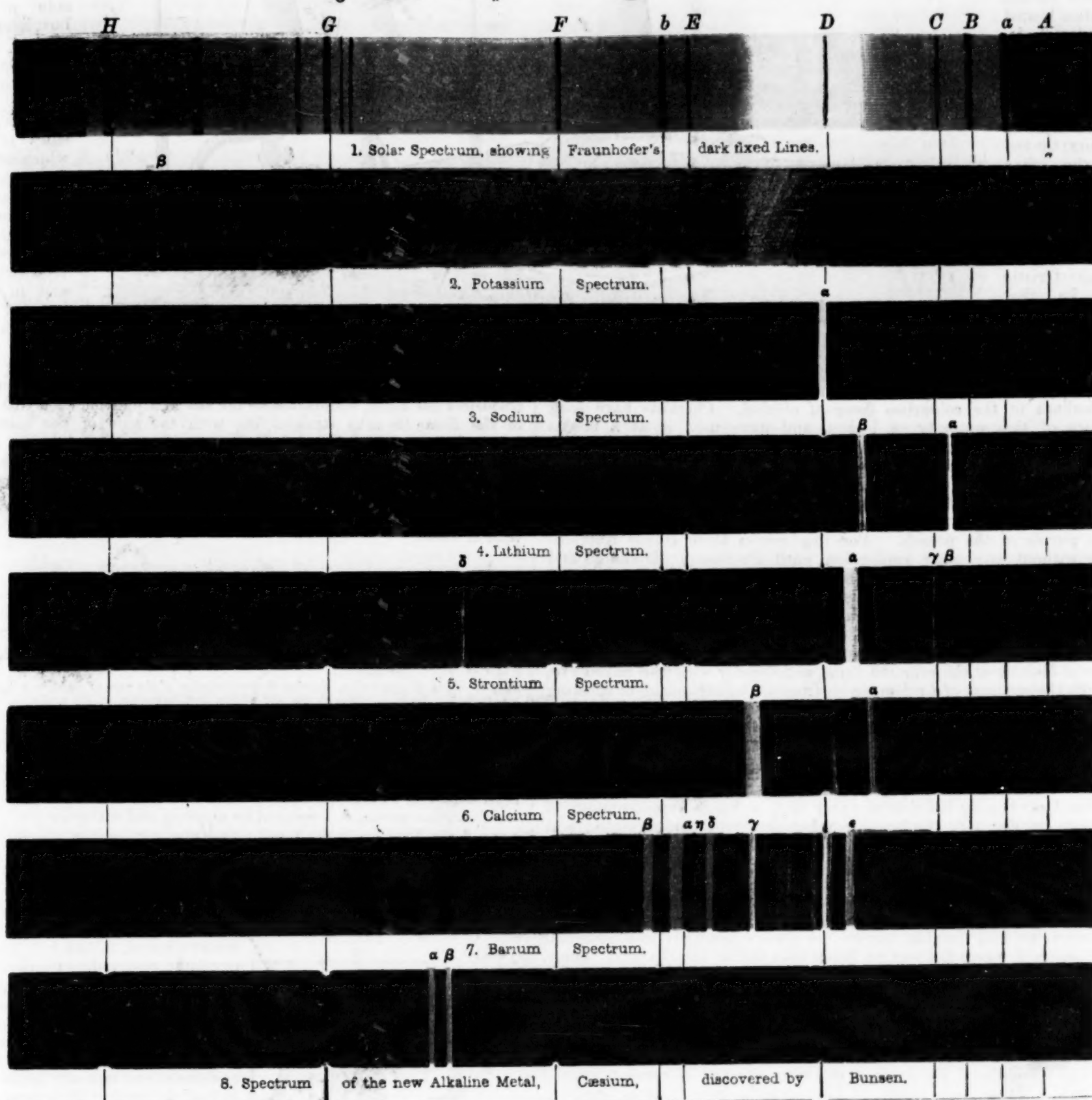
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SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1861.

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Let us, however, first understand what it is we are to see; let us be sure that the view from the summit will repay us for the trouble of the ascent. We can have but little doubt of this, when we learn that one amongst the numerous objects which will attract our attention is to understand how it comes that two German philosophers quietly working in their laboratory in Heidelberg should have been able to determine, without the least shadow of a doubt, the actual chemical composition of the sun. We shall see that this conclusion, although it appears at first sight more like a vague story of the alchemists than the exact statement of modern science, is strictly true, and is based upon a few simple experimental facts.

In carefully tracing our steps to this point, we shall have much more to observe; we shall see that a new terrestrial, as well as a new solar chemistry

arises to view, giving us information respecting the composition of the earth's crust never before dreamed of, and thus opening out a vast field for further inquiry. Understanding, then, what we have to look out for, let us start on our way, following exactly the path trodden by the first discoverers, beginning with that which was well known, and gradually working our way into the new districts until we arrive at the point from which we obtain the widest horizon.

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The methods of analytical chemistry, that is, the means which chemists have at hand for either detecting the presence, or estimating the quantity of chemical substances, have up to the present time almost always been rough, though very seldom ready. This is, however, not to be wondered at, for the science of chemistry is one of very recent date; it is therefore but incomplete, and each year, almost each day, sees the old habits of investigation set aside for new and more perfect methods. The discovery which we have now to consider marks a turning point in analytical chemistry. By means of the methods thus employed we are enabled to gain a knowledge of the composition and distribution of terrestrial matter with a degree of accuracy and delicacy hitherto unheard of. Substances formerly supposed to be most sparingly distributed are thus found to occur everywhere, and elementary bodies, the presence of which had been altogether overlooked by the use of the older processes, have been brought to light by the application of this new mode of analysis.

The chief facts upon which this new system is based have long been



known, but they had not been examined before this with the care necessary to make them available for exact research. Thus it was well known that certain bodies, when heated in a colourless flame, impart to that flame a particular tint; in the common pyrotechnic displays we have an example of such colours; the red fire of the stage contains salts of strontium, the green fire salts of barium, and these substances always produce the same characteristic colours. In that children's delight at Christmas, the snap-dragon, we have a familiar instance of the peculiar yellow colour produced by common salt, or by any of the salts of sodium in the colourless flame of alcohol. Chemists have long been aware of this property of bodies, and have used it as a means of detecting certain substances; thus the pale purple colour imparted to a flame by salts of potash, and the bright yellow colour given by soda salts, have been used as tests of the presence of these bodies separately; but when they are mixed together this reaction cannot be employed, as the bright yellow colour produced by a very small quantity of soda completely masks the paler purple of the potash. For this reason these colour reactions remained without any wide application until Professors Kirchhoff and Bunsen (experimental philosophers each standing at the head of his science) applied to them a method of observation which did away with all difficulty of recognizing the constituents of a mixture, and therefore rendered the reaction available as an exact mode of analysis. The arrangement employed by the German savans is as simple as it is effectual and beautiful; it consists in looking at the coloured flame, not directly with the naked eye, but through the medium of a prism, an instrument for separating or splitting up the light into its different constituent parts in such a way that the variously coloured rays do not overlap each other but are each seen separately and distinctly.

If we pass a fine beam of sunlight through a prism or a triangular piece of glass, we obtain the solar spectrum discovered by Newton, a gloriously painted band containing colours of every hue, a rough representation of which is seen on Fig. 1 of the accompanying chromolithograph plate; and hence we find that the white sunbeam does not consist of one kind of light, but of an infinite number of differently coloured rays, each endowed with distinct and special properties. That these coloured rays really make up white light was also shown by Newton, as he passed all the coloured rays back through another prism, and obtained the white light again. In the solar spectrum we find that the colours are always arranged in a particular order; at one end, where the rays are least bent out of their original course, we see the red rays; and passing on, we meet with every tinge of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet light, until we arrive at the extreme limit of the visible violet, in the most refrangible part of the spectrum.

If we thus carefully observe the different portions of the sun's spectrum, we shall notice, besides the different coloured rays, certain very fine dark spaces in the middle of the colours, denoting absence of some particular kind of light. These dark spaces or lines, which, in very great numbers, run vertically throughout the different colours of the spectrum, have been called Fraunhofer's lines, from the name of their discoverer. They are always seen in exactly the same relative positions in the solar spectrum, and as the parallels of latitude and longitude serve to determine the position of any point on the earth's surface, so any particular position in the solar spectrum can be exactly defined by reference to these fixed dark lines. The importance of this discovery of Fraunhofer to our present subject becomes at once apparent, when we learn that it is solely by help of these dark lines in the solar spectrum, that we are enabled to draw conclusions respecting the chemical composition of the sun's body. How this has been done will be seen in the sequel.

Our German philosophers, Professors Kirchhoff and Bunsen, applied this method to the examination of the coloured flames produced by various substances; they looked through a prism at the yellow light produced by bringing a salt of soda into the flame, and they saw, instead of all the colours of the rainbow, one bright double yellow line situated in a particular position, all the remaining space being perfectly dark. This showed that the light given out by the soda flame is all of one kind, that there is no light present in this flame but the one bright yellow ray. Other scientific men have, indeed, previous to the researches of Kirchhoff and Bunsen, observed that definite spectra are produced by the luminous vapour of certain metals. Thus, for instance, the existence of the yellow soda line has been long known; and both Wheatstone and Talbot in our own country, and Masson and Angstrom on the continent, have observed many of these spectra. The value of a great scientific discovery does not, however, become less because some few of the phenomena upon which the discovery is based have already been known. Professors Bunsen and Kirchhoff have earned the hearty thanks of those interested in the true progress of science, for having, as we shall learn, created a new branch of chemical analysis, by applying the methods of exact scientific investigation to phenomena which were previously unconnected and incompletely understood, and which, but for the genius of the two German philosophers, would have remained uncared for and unknown.

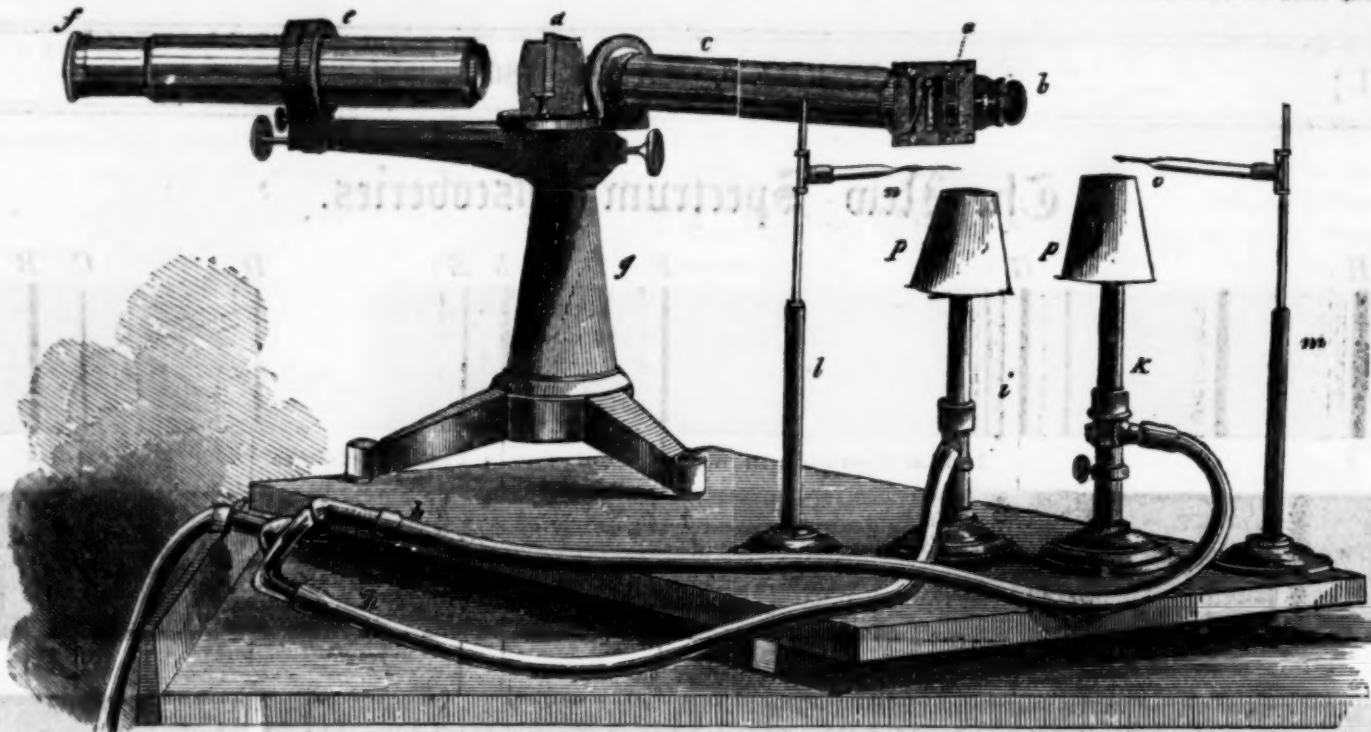


FIG. 1.—Steinheil's New Spectrum Analyser.

that it coincides with the focus of the object-glass. A lamp, giving a colourless gas flame, stands before the slit in a position such that the outside of the flame is in a straight line with the axis of the telescope. The coloured flame is produced by bringing a fine platinum wire, upon which some of the required substance is placed, into the colourless gas-flame by means of a holder. On looking through the second telescope, the coloured spectrum of the flame is seen, and by moving a handle, and thus turning the prism, any desired portion of the spectrum can be brought into the centre of the field of view.

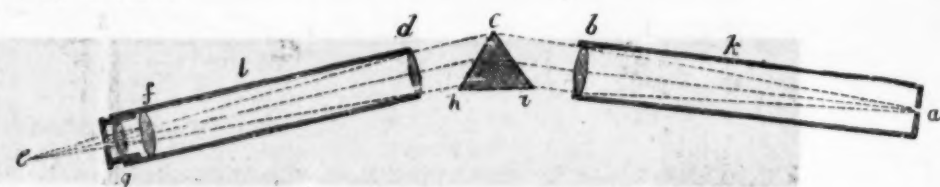


FIG. 2.—Plan of Apparatus, showing the transmission of the rays of light, *a c i, c h e*, passing from the flame, *a*, through the slit of the first telescope, *k*, the prism, *c*, and the second telescope, *l*; *b, d*, lenses of telescopes; *f, g*, lenses of eye-piece for focussing.

An improved and much more perfect instrument for spectrum analysis has lately been made by the celebrated optician, Steinheil, of Munich, under the direction of the Heidelberg Professors. This improved apparatus is represented in Fig. 1. It consists of a firm iron stand, *g*, upon the centre of which a glass prism, *d*, is secured by a spring and set screw; two brass tubes, *c* and *e*, are fixed on to the stand; the tube, *e, a*, carries the slit, *L*, through which the light from the lamps, *p p*, pass; and at its other end it contains a lens, having its focus at the slit, serving the purpose of rendering the rays from the slit parallel. The arrangement of the slit is somewhat complicated, but its chief feature consists in carrying a second small prism placed only over half of it, *a*, Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, thus enabling a double image to be formed from the two lamps, *L* and *L'*. The light from one lamp passes directly through the uncovered and lower portion of the slit, and produces a distinct image in the lower half of the field of the telescope, *c*; whilst the light from the other lamp enters the tube, *e*, by refraction through the small prism, and produces a separate image in the upper half of the field. This arrangement is a most important addition to the instrument, as it enables the observer to compare at one glance the spectra produced by two different bodies; for, when seen through the telescope, *e*, the two spectra appear

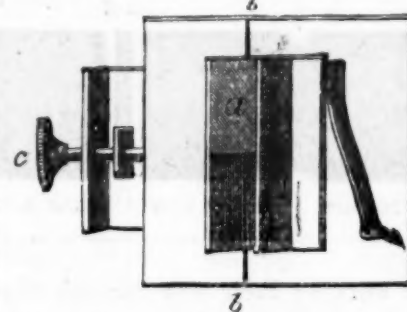


FIG. 3.—Enlarged View of the brass-plate, with Slit, *b, b*, and small prism, *a*.

immediately above each other divided only by a very thin black line. In this instrument the prism is fixed, and the observation telescope moves in a horizontal circle, and thus the different portions of the coloured rays can be brought into the centre of the field at pleasure. When in use, a black cloth is thrown loosely over the prism and telescopes to shut out foreign light. Seen by means of this instrument the spectra of the various metals appear as gloriously bright bands, sharply defined, of a beauty and vividness of colour which defies description or imitation.

When thus examined, it is seen that all the salts of soda, or all substances containing soda in any form, give this peculiar yellow band, an exact representation of which is seen in the accompanying chromoxylograph plate, where the first diagram represents the solar spectrum with its dark fixed lines, and the third diagram the spectrum obtained from the soda flame, or the soda spectrum, as we may shortly term it.

Just as soda produces its own peculiar spectrum, distinct from that of any other substance, so the compounds of each metal give characteristic spectra, each one distinct from every other, and each produced solely by the one particular metal. In the lower diagrams on the plate, we see representations of the spectra of the coloured flames produced by the compounds of the metals potassium, lithium, calcium, strontium, and barium; each spectrum invariably containing special bright coloured bands, by which the presence of the metal in question may be detected with ease and certainty. It is, however, perfectly impossible to give, by means of an engraving, anything but the most incomplete and inadequate idea of the reality. No man can paint like Nature, and Nature's painting of the solar spectrum and of the spectra of these metals is one of her most marvellous and magnificently beautiful achievements.

The first instrument used by Messrs. Kirchhoff & Bunsen for observing the spectra produced by various coloured flames consisted of a prism placed inside a blackened box, having its horizontal section in the form of a trapezium, and resting on three feet; the two inclined sides of the box, which are placed at an angle of about 58 degrees from each other, carry each a small telescope. The eye piece of the first telescope is removed, and in its place is inserted a plate in which a slit made by two brass knife edges is so arranged

We will now proceed to notice the most important peculiarities in the spectra of the metals of the alkalies and alkaline earths, the only ones which have as yet been examined; for it is only by an exact acquaintance with these special points that we can see the advantages which this new method of chemical analysis possesses over the older processes.

1.—Sodium.

The spectrum-reaction of sodium, the metal discovered by Sir H. Davy as existing in the alkali soda, is the most delicate of all. The yellow line, Na α (see Fig. 3), the only one which appears in the sodium spectrum, is, as is seen by reference to the Plate, coincident with Fraunhofer's dark solar line, D, that is to say, if both the soda and solar spectra were allowed to fall one over the other, the yellow soda line would *exactly* cover the dark solar line, D. This is a very important observation, because it shows a certain connection between the yellow soda line and the dark line, D, a connection which, as we shall afterwards see, enables us to draw conclusions respecting the presence of soda in the sun's atmosphere. This peculiar bright yellow line is produced by all the compounds of sodium and by no other known substance, and it is always seen when any material whatever is brought into the flame, so widely and universally diffused are the sodium compounds, and an almost incredibly small quantity of this body can be easily and certainly detected by means of the spectrum-reaction. By a very ingenious arrangement Bunsen was able to prove that the presence of less than one 180,000,000th part of a grain of soda can thus be ascertained. It is easy to see why, with a reaction so extremely delicate, soda is always found to exist in the air, for more than two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered with the ocean, containing common salt (chloride of sodium) in solution, and fine particles of sea water are being continually carried into the air by the waves; these particles of sea water thus cast into the atmosphere evaporate, leaving almost inconceivably small residues, which, floating about, are almost always present in the air, and are rendered visible to our eyesight in the sunbeam. These minute particles of common salt may exercise an all-important effect on the march of contagious diseases, which, being caused by the presence of some putrifying fermentive matter in the air may be stopped by the presence of such powerful antiseptic as chloride of sodium, even though it be present in very small quantities. A regular series of observations of the variations in intensity of the sodium-reaction in the air would soon show whether this substance thus produces any effect upon the spread of endemic disease.

That sodium is always contained in the air can be easily shown by allowing a fine platinum wire, which has been cleaned by ignition in the flame, to remain exposed to the air for a few hours, when, on placing it again in the colourless flame, a bright flash of the soda line is seen. In the same way the dust which settles from the air in a room shows the soda-reaction; we only need to knock a dusty book near the flame in order to obtain the wonderfully brilliant yellow soda line.

2.—Lithium.

The spectrum produced by all the compounds of the metal lithium is very beautiful and quite characteristic. It consists, as is seen by reference to Fig. 4, of one intensely brilliant crimson line (Li α), and one less distinct orange line (Li β). By help of this reaction, the presence of the one 70,000,000th part of a grain of lithium compound can be detected with certainty. Before the introduction of this new mode of analysis, lithium was only known to exist in four varieties of mica found in one or two places; it was thought to be a very rare substance, but this was simply because the methods of analysis formerly employed were rough and faulty; for, when we apply the spectrum reaction, we find that a large number of minerals, when carefully examined, produce, amongst others, these two peculiar lines, which are not obtained from any other known body except lithium, so that we conclude that this metal is much more widely distributed than was imagined. Bunsen found traces of lithium in three cubic inches of sea-water; and since then its presence in Thames and spring-water has been proved; it is contained in the ashes of almost all plants, and the red line can be seen by holding the ash of a cigar in the flame. Lithium has also been discovered in milk, in human blood, and muscular tissue. It is almost unnecessary to remark that no trace of the red colour is seen by observing these reactions with the naked eye, the more intense colours produced by those bodies which are present in large quantities entirely obliterating the fainter red colour due to small traces of lithium. But the red line becomes at once apparent when, by means of the prism, we arrange the rays in their proper order, and thus prevent the overwhelming intensity of one colour from interfering with the visibility of any other less prominent ray.

3.—Potassium.

All compounds of this substance, the metallic base of the alkali potash, give a widely extended continuous spectrum (represented in Fig. 2), which contains only two characteristic lines, namely, one line (K α), in the outermost red approaching the ultra-red rays, exactly coinciding with the dark line A of the solar spectrum, and a second line (K β) situated far in the violet rays towards the other end of the spectrum, and also identical with a particular dark line observed by Fraunhofer. A very indistinct line coinciding with Fraunhofer's line B, which, however, is only seen when the light is very intense, is by no means so characteristic. Owing to the difficulty of recognising the bright lines in the extreme limits of the spectrum, the potassium reaction is not so delicate as that of either sodium or lithium, still the one 60,000th part of a grain of this substance may be easily detected. It is interesting to observe that both of the common alkalies, soda, and potash, produce bright lines, each one of which is coincident with a dark solar line.

4.—Strontium.

We now pass to the consideration of the spectra produced by the alkaline earths; these are by no means so simple as those produced by the alkalies. That of strontia is especially characterized by the absence of green bands (See Fig. 5). Eight lines in the strontium spectrum are remarkable, namely, six red, one orange, and one blue line. The orange line Sr α , which appears close by the sodium line towards the red end of the spectrum, the two red lines Sr β and Sr γ , and lastly, the splendid blue line Sr δ , are the most important strontia bands both as regards their position and their intensity. It has been found that the one 1,000,000th part of a grain of strontia can thus be detected. Observed by the naked eye, the coloured

flames produced by a salt of the metal strontium and a salt of lithium are almost undistinguishable; but when examined by the help of a prism, there is not the least analogy between their spectra (as is seen by comparing Figs. 4 and 5), and even when mixed together, the presence of each of these two bodies can be easily ascertained. In like manner neither soda nor potash interferes the least with the strontium reaction.

5.—Calcium.

Those compounds of calcium (the metallic base of lime), which are volatile, or which become gases, at the temperature of the flame, all give the characteristic spectrum represented by Fig. 6. The lime spectrum is immediately distinguished from the four spectra already considered by the very characteristic bright green line, Ca β . A second no less characteristic feature in the calcium spectrum is the intensely bright orange line, Ca α , lying considerably nearer to the red end of the spectrum than either the sodium line, Na α , or the orange band of strontium, Sr α . Experiment proves that a quantity of lime no larger than the one 100,000,000th part of a grain can be thus detected.

6. Barium.

The spectrum of the compounds of barium, represented in Fig. 7, is the most complicated of the spectra of the alkalies and alkaline earths. It is at once distinguished from all the others by the green lines, Ba α , and Ba β (which are by far the most distinct), appearing the first, and continuing during the whole of the reaction. Ba γ is not quite so distinct, but is still a well marked and peculiar line. As the barium spectrum is considerably more extended than those of the other metals, the reaction is not observed to so great a degree of delicacy; still it was found possible to detect the one 60,000th part of a grain of this substance.

As yet, experiment has not decided the degree of accuracy with which other metallic compounds, such as those of magnesium, iron, copper, arsenic, can be detected; there appears, however, little ground to doubt that the spectra of all the metals will in due time be mapped and described in a similar manner to those which we have already noticed, and that this method of spectrum observation will become a very valuable branch of chemical analysis, as enabling chemists to detect with ease and certainty the smallest quantities of metallic poisons. Professors Kirchhoff and Bunsen are now engaged in carrying out this branch of the subject, and it would therefore be premature to enlarge upon the question, as to how far these new processes of analysis will supplant the older and now recognized methods.

It may be interesting to mention some of the more important examples of the application of this new method to the determination of the composition of terrestrial matter. If a drop of sea-water be heated on the platinum wire, it shows at first a strong sodium reaction, and after the greater part of the chloride of sodium has been volatilized, a weak calcium spectrum is seen. If a few grains of sea-water are evaporated, the spectra of both potassium and lithium can be obtained by adding to the solid residue a few simple chemical re-agents to separate these two substances from the large excess of soda salt. The presence of strontium in sea-water can be best detected by examining the boiler-deposit from ocean-going steamers; in all such deposits strontium can be detected. Many mineral waters exhibit the reactions of potassium, sodium, lithium, calcium, and strontium by mere heating. If, for example, a drop of the mineral water of Kreuznach or Dürkheim be brought into the flame, the lines Na α , Li α , Ca α , and Ca β , are at once seen. If, instead of using the water itself, a drop of the liquor obtained by evaporating the water be used, these bands appear most vividly. As soon as the chlorides of sodium and lithium have been to a certain extent volatilized, and the calcium spectrum becomes faint, the characteristic lines of the strontium spectrum begin to show themselves, and continue to increase in distinctness until they come out in all their true brightness.

In this case, therefore, by the mere observation of a single drop undergoing volatilization, the complete analysis of a mixture containing five constituents is performed in a few seconds.

It would be tedious to recount the ordinary methods of analysis which chemists have been obliged to employ for the purpose of detecting these bodies. Suffice it to say, that the processes are wearisome and complicated, and that the result often does not compensate for the trouble bestowed on the analysis; for when a small quantity of any one of these bodies is mixed with a large amount of the others, its presence is almost sure to be overlooked owing to the inaccuracy, not of the observer, but of the methods he is obliged to make use of. But by the employment of this new method of spectrum analysis, quantities, however small, of these substances, can be with ease and certainty detected, even when mixed with any other matters. To illustrate the marvellous facility with which this result is attained, we quote Professor Bunsen's own words—"A mixture of the chlorides of potassium, sodium, lithium, calcium, strontium, and barium, was made, containing at most the one 1,000th part of a grain of each of these substances, and this mixture was brought into the flame, and the spectra produced were observed. At first, the bright yellow sodium line Na α appeared, on a background formed by a nearly continuous pale spectrum. As soon as this line began to fade (owing to the volatilization of the chloride of sodium), the exactly defined bright red line of Li α was seen; and beyond this, still farther from the sodium line, the faint red potassium line K α was noticed, whilst the two barium lines Ba α , Ba β , with their peculiar shading, became distinctly visible in their characteristic places. As the potassium, sodium, lithium, and barium salts volatilized, their spectra became fainter and fainter, and their peculiar bands one after the other vanished, until after the lapse of a few minutes, the lines Ca α , Ca β , Sr α , Sr β , Sr γ , and Sr δ , became gradually visible, and, like a dissolving view, at last attained their characteristic distinctness, colouring, and position, and then, after some time, became pale and disappeared entirely."

Another most interesting example of the information which the application of this beautiful method has opened out, is the discovery of the presence of strontium, lithium, sodium, and potassium in limestones of very different geological ages. These observations, extended by a series of exact spectrum analyses, must, as Professor Bunsen remarks, prove of the greatest geological importance, both as regards the order of the formation of the limestone deposits, and their local distribution, and may possibly lead to the establishment

of some unexpected conclusions respecting the nature of the oceans from which these limestones were originally deposited.

The most remarkable example, however, of the rich harvest of valuable facts elicited by this new method of analysis has yet to be noticed; it consists in the discovery, by Professor Bunsen, of two new and hitherto undetected alkaline metals. It is evident that if bodies should exist in nature so sparingly diffused that the analytical methods hitherto employed have not succeeded in detecting or separating them, it is very possible that their presence may be revealed by a simple examination of the spectra produced by their flames. Professor Bunsen has found that in reality such unknown chemical elements exist; and relying upon the unmistakable results of the spectrum analysis, he has proved that, besides potassium, sodium, and lithium, the group of the alkaline metals contains two new members.

The mode in which this discovery was made is as simple as it is beautiful; in examining the spectra produced by the alkalies obtained from the mineral waters of Baden and Dürkheim, Bunsen noticed two bright blue bands, which he had not seen when the alkalies from other sources were examined. Hence he concluded that in this mineral water some new and rare alkaline metal was present, and he set to work to find the substance, and in time succeeded in separating, by chemical means, all the soda, potash, and other well known bodies, and then actually obtained the compounds of new metal left behind in their pure state. The spectrum of the new metal is seen by reference to Fig. 8 of the plate. It is chiefly characterized by two bright blue lines nearly in the same position as the blue line Sr δ . Owing to this peculiar property, the body was named Cæsium, from the Latin *cæsius*, blueish grey. Cæsium forms a whole series of peculiar salts, and closely resembles the metal potassium in its properties. Whilst working upon the cæsium, Bunsen remarked the frequent occurrence of two magnificent bright red bands in the spectra of these mineral waters; these lines appear in the ultra-red portion of the solar spectrum, beyond any of the visible red rays, and had never been seen before. Following this thread with all the ardour of a true man of science, he found that these red lines were produced by a second new alkaline metal, and, after a series of long continued and laborious operations, he succeeded in obtaining the pure compound of "Rubidium," as he christened his second-born.

The discovery of these two new elementary substances is the crowning point of these most interesting investigations; it gives us a notion of the magnitude of the results which may thus be realized by future research, and of the vastness of the fields thus opened to our view; for we must remember that we are still at the threshold of these things, and that the two new metals were discovered, so to say, by the first chance application of the method of spectrum analysis to a certain mineral water.

This does not, however, in the least degree lessen the brilliancy of the discovery, or render the thanks of the scientific world less due to Professor Bunsen for the marvellous manner in which he has overcome all the difficulties of separating these bodies; difficulties of no ordinary kind, the successful solution of which perhaps only those versed in such matters can thoroughly appreciate.

In our next article we shall pass from terrestrial to solar chemistry, and explain the method of reasoning, and the mode of experiment which enables us to conclude that sodium, iron, magnesium, chromium, and nickel, amongst other substances, are contained in the solar atmosphere.

LONDON PLACES OF AMUSEMENT IN THE MONTH OF MAY, A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

In the month of May, among our forefathers in the last century, the summer season in London began, and the earlier part of it, at least, was that in which there was the greatest display of fashion of any period of the year. The character of the public amusements of those days was influenced by a different manner of living, for, as people dined early in the day, they had long evenings, and a much greater portion of fashionable life was passed out of doors. Towards the hour when fashionable people now begin to think of dressing for dinner, the *beau monde* of the year 1761 were starting for the promenade in the park, which was thronged till dusk. The Mall in St. James's Park was the favourite scene of the display of what was then termed "politeness," where people of all ranks, whose dress was sufficiently *à la mode*, mixed together and conversed without the restraint which modern manners impose on people who are strangers to each other. The "Foreigner's Guide" to London, published in 1763, speaks with admiration of the "polite company" which was to be seen in St. James's Park, and tells us that in the summer evenings this company was "always great and brilliant;" and, it is added, as a hint on a point of etiquette,—"N.B. In the public walks it is not usual to salute but once." Dandies of all descriptions, or Macaronis (as they were then called), assembled here to show themselves off to advantage, and the company, as may be supposed, if always gay and always "polite," was not uniformly select. The newspapers for the month of June, 1761, repeat an anecdote of contemporary manners, which may be given in their own words:—

"Last Sunday, some young gentlemen belonging to a merchant's counting-house, who were a little disgusted at the too frequent use made of the bag-wig by apprentices to the meanest mechanics, took the following method to burlesque that elegant piece of French furniture. Having a porter just come out of the country, they dressed him in a bag-wig, laced ruffles, and Frenchified him up in the new mode, telling him that, if he intended to make his fortune in town, he must dress himself like a gentleman on Sunday, go into the Mall in St. James's Park, and mix with people of the first rank. They went with him to the scene of action, and drove him in among his betters, where he behaved, as he was directed, in a manner the most likely to render him conspicuous. All the company saw, by the turning of his toes, that the dancing-master had not done his duty; and by the swing of his arms, and his continually looking at his laced ruffles and silk stockings, they had reason to conclude it was the first time he had appeared in such a dress. The company gathered round him, which he at first took for applause, and held up his head a little higher than ordinary; but at last some gentlemen joining in conversation with him, by his dialect detected him, and laughed him out of the company. Several, however, seemed dissatisfied at the scoffs he received from a parcel of 'prentice boys, monkified in the same manner, who appeared like so many little curs round a mastiff, and snapped as he went along, without being sensible at the same time of their own meanness."

The extent of St. James's Park was then more considerable than it is at present, its circuit being stated at about two miles. Down the middle ran an artificial canal made in the time of Charles II., and now replaced by a less formal piece of water. In winter it was as celebrated for its skaters as our modern Serpentine. On the south-western part of the Park was a smaller pool of water, of much greater antiquity, and overhung by the trees of the adjoining avenue, which gave it a gloomy appearance; it was called Rosamond's Pond, and was celebrated not only as a place for lovers' assignations, but for the number of persons, especially females, who, under the influence of the soft passion, committed suicide in it. Rosamond's Pond and a part of the canal were filled up in 1770. St. James's Park was the great foot promenade; those who took the air in carriages or on horseback went to Hyde Park, which also extended beyond its present limits, and was far more rural in character. Kensington Gardens were then accessible only, during the absence of the Court from London, to the select few who could obtain permission to walk in them.

With the month of May the theatrical season was approaching its close, and a number of other places of entertainment, consisting chiefly of gardens for promenade, with music and refreshment, and usually ending with a display of fireworks, were opened. In 1761 Drury Lane was kept open during the summer months under the management of Foote, who, in a prologue to one of his pieces, deprecated the monopoly of public patronage at this season by the Gardens:—

"If, tired of her round in the Ranelagh mill,
There should be one female inclined to sit still;
If, blind to the beauties, or sick of the squall,
A party should not choose to catch cold at Vauxhall;
If at Sadler's sweet Wells the wine should be thick,
The cheesecakes be sour, or Miss Wilkinson sick;
If the fumes of the pipes should prove powerful in June,
Or the tumblers be lame, or the bells out of tune;
We hope you will call at our warehouse in Drury,
We've a curious assortment of goods I assure you."

It was long, indeed, before even the fashionable public could be induced to shut themselves up in close theatres during the evenings of summer, and, among all classes, public gardens, of one description or other, had been the favourite places of resort. Spring-gardens, which were so named because there were scattered over them secret pieces of machinery, by treading upon which the promenader suddenly found himself enveloped in a shower of rain, had been popular since the time of Elizabeth. The Spring-gardens adjoining to St. James's-park, were celebrated as a place of public resort in the reign of Charles I., and after being closed by Cromwell, were reopened a little before the restoration. Very soon afterwards, the new Spring-gardens, planned by the celebrated Sir Samuel Morland, were opened in Lambeth. There were afterwards other Spring-gardens in different parts of the environs of the metropolis. Morland's Spring-gardens at Vauxhall were much frequented during the reign of Charles II., and Pepys gives us a very picturesque notion of them as they appeared at that time, when he tells us how, "to hear the nightingale and the birds, and here fiddlers and there a harp, and here a Jew's trumpet, and here laughing, and there fine people walking, is mighty diverting." Ladies appeared there in masks, and refreshments were served in numerous arbours, and it became celebrated as a place of disreputable intrigue. During the first-half of the last century, the Lambeth Spring-gardens underwent considerable changes, and became better known by the name of Vauxhall, which had belonged to the site before the gardens were established there. They were at that time celebrated for masquerades in the open air—the *Ridotto al fresco*—a kind of entertainment especially in favour under the reigns of the first two Georges. Vauxhall-gardens a hundred years ago differed very little from the appearance they presented within our own time. The great object of admiration was the fifteen hundred glass lamps, which were lit up suddenly on the approach of darkness, and gave a brilliant appearance to the alleys and avenues of trees. There was a "superb" orchestra in the middle of the gardens, as well as a rotunda and ball-room with an orchestra of its own. But at the time of which we are now speaking, Vauxhall did not stand first among the London "gardens."

When you quitted St. James's-park by its western entrance, you entered a road, then bordered by hedges and fields, which, leading to the Hospital, and by that to the village of Chelsea, was called Chelsea-road. Before you reached the Hospital, you came to a branch road to the left, which brought you directly in face of a large gateway, which was designed to exhibit some architectural beauty. This was the entrance to Ranelagh-gardens, the most fashionable of all the London places of amusement, which occupied the ground immediately adjoining to Chelsea Hospital on the east, and the branch road by which it was approached was and is still called Ranelagh-walk. The condition of this part of London at so recent a date is curiously illustrated by the perils which beset the approach to its most frequented place of entertainment. In 1769 the announcements of the performances at Ranelagh are accompanied by the warning, "The company that come by Hyde-park corner are requested to order their carriages to keep the turnpike-road by Pimlico, to prevent the accidents that must unavoidably happen by going down the descent of the new road by the fire-engine." And until nearly the end of the century, so great was the daring of the robbers who infested the outskirts of the town, that it was considered necessary to give confidence to visitors by adding to the advertisement in conspicuous type, "N.B. There will be a guard on horseback armed to patrol the roads till all the company is gone."

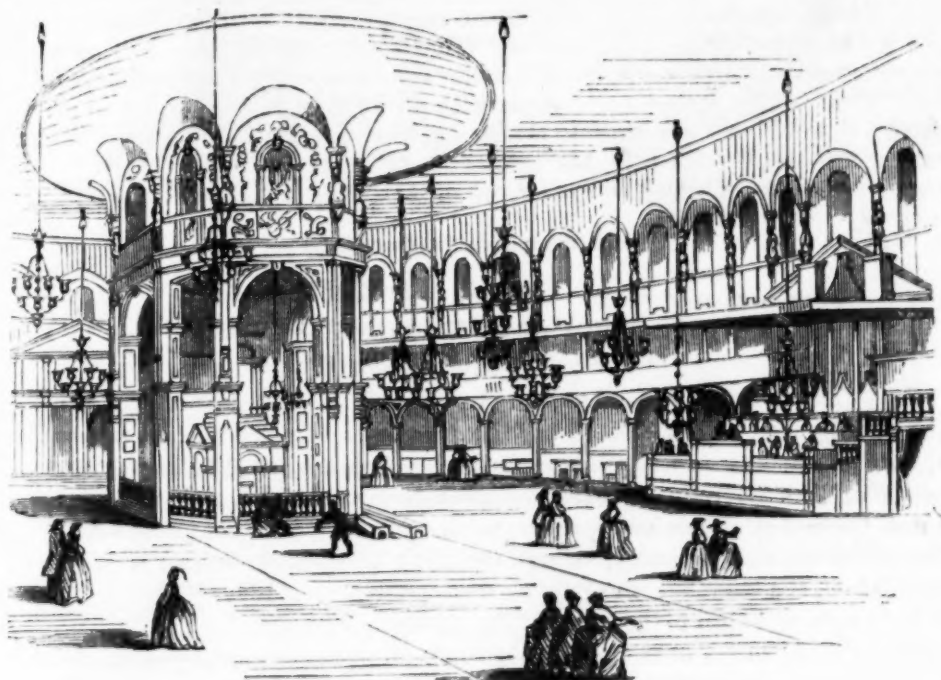
Ranelagh gardens were opened in 1742, for much the same purposes as those of Vauxhall, but they were less extensive and more artificially laid out than the latter. The principal object which fixed the attention on entering was a large circular building called the Rotunda, the external diameter of which was a hundred feet. The gardens were laid out very tastefully, and contained a small lake, with an island in the middle, on which was erected a Venetian pavilion, to which the company was carried in boats. This pavilion was the scene of the firework exhibition. There was an orchestra in the garden for music in the open air. The gardens were at first places of fashionable promenade, with music and refreshment; the doors were opened at five o'clock, and the music commenced at six. The charge for entrance was one shilling, and the gardens were opened three evenings in the week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, generally from the middle of May till the close of the autumn. They were used on extraordinary occasions for balls, masquerades, and other great public entertainments, when, of course, a much higher price was paid for admission. The "Foreigner's Guide" of 1763,

already referred to, states that Ranelagh Gardens were "resorted to by the most polite company and the first quality in the kingdom." It appears to have been the custom, after the promenade in St. James' Park, to proceed to Ranelagh, and there enjoy the music and partake of refreshments; and some who chose to be still more fashionable took a boat later on in the evening, and went by water from Ranelagh to Vauxhall.



View of Ranelagh Gardens, with the Lake and Rotunda.

The engraving we give above represents the lake and Venetian pavilion in Ranelagh Gardens, with the principal avenue of trees on the left and the Rotunda in the background. It is taken from a rather more comprehensive view, engraved in 1751 to commemorate a great masquerade held in the gardens that year. Our second cut represents the interior of the Rotunda, which was a hundred and fifty feet in diameter. It was surrounded by an



Interior of the Rotunda, Ranelagh Gardens.

arcade, above which was a gallery, with a balustrade, opening into a series of upper boxes. Over these was a circle of windows. In the centre was a heating apparatus, supporting the roof, and having within it, of course, the chimney. It had four faces, with four large fire-places, which were concealed when not wanted for warming the rooms. Refreshments were served in the lower and upper boxes. "The regale," says a description of London published in 1761, "is tea and coffee;" but wines and other refreshments were to be had.

Some of the earlier advertisements of Ranelagh announce as a novelty: "The fire-trees will be lighted this evening;" but the fire-works were not introduced until some years after the opening of the gardens, and then the price of admission was raised to half-a-crown, which included the tea and coffee. A little later a representation of Mount Etna was introduced. In 1761 the doors were opened at six o'clock, and the music began at seven. A few years later the charge for entrance was three shillings and sixpence, and the doors were not opened till half-past six; and finally, about the year 1780, the hour of opening was advanced to seven o'clock, and that of the commencement of the performance to eight. But some years before this the gardens were opened for mere visitors in the morning part of the day. The advertisements of the performances in 1774 contain, for the first time, the postscript, "N.B. Ladies and gentlemen may walk in the Rotunda, gardens, &c., every day (Sunday excepted) at 1s. each." Towards the end of the century the Ranelagh masquerades became more frequent, but the popularity of the gardens, partly, it is said, through mismanagement of the proprietors, was already declining. The last masqued ball given at Ranelagh occurred in June, 1803, and in the year following the buildings were taken down, and the ground cleared for other purposes.

Marybone (or, as we now write it, Marylebone) Gardens were at first mere tea-gardens, where people who liked the rural walk across the fields might enjoy themselves without any payment for admission, and where they were supplied with tea, coffee, chocolate, and cakes, and also with wine and liquors. At five o'clock, which was the hour of tea, an organ played. But the gardens were soon expanded into an imitation of Ranelagh, and concerts were introduced in place of the organ, and the whole ended, as at Ranelagh, with fireworks. These gardens were now usually opened to the public, like

Ranelagh, from the month of May through the summer and autumn, every evening, instead of three evenings a week, and visitors were no longer admitted gratis, but were required to produce a ticket, which cost them one shilling. The proprietors at first modestly disavowed any attempt to rival the older and larger establishments, for in a "Musical Address to the Town," delivered at the opening of Marybone Gardens, in 1763, they say:—

"Though here no rotunda expands the wide dome,
No canal on its borders invites you to roam,
Yet nature some blessings has scattered around,
And means to improve may hereafter be found."

As late as 1769, it is described as a "pleasant garden," and we are told that "it may be considered as a kind of humble imitation of Vauxhall." Frauds of some sort appear to have been practised, or anticipated, in relation to the admission tickets, for, in the advertisements in September, 1763, notice is given that "Tickets sold at the garden doors, or in the fields, will not be admitted." The doors were now opened at five o'clock, and the



Interior of Marybone Gardens.

music commenced at six, as in the two older places of amusement; and here also it was announced, that "horse patrols" were kept to protect the company from highwaymen in the fields and lanes between Marybone and London. After a few years, the terms of admission were raised to half-a-crown, which included the ordinary refreshments. In 1771, the Marybone Gardens were "opened every Sunday afternoon for company to walk in." In 1774, Marybone "Spa" was discovered, and then the gardens in connection with the spa were opened in the morning, "admittance one shilling, for which each person may drink the waters, and breakfast on tea or coffee." And so also, with the Sunday evening visitors, "each person paying sixpence at the door will receive a ticket, which will be taken as cash by the waiters." Marybone Gardens had become quite as celebrated for their musical performances as Ranelagh, but they were probably never frequented by so high a class of visitors, and they gradually became disreputable, and were suppressed after the season of 1777, as not tending to the improvement of public morals. After the commencement of the present century, Vauxhall remained the only representative of this class of places of entertainment for the higher classes of society, which were so popular a hundred years ago.

Our view of part of Marybone Gardens, taken from an engraving executed at the time when they were in greatest credit, represents the orchestra, and the principal avenue of trees.

WENHAM'S BINOCULAR MICROSCOPE.

SINCE the introduction of the stereoscope and the consequent general familiarity with those laws of optics on which the rotundity given to mere pictorial representation depends which has thence resulted, various efforts have been made from time to time to adapt the stereoscopic principle to microscopes. Several plans have been devised, but none of them have been perfectly successful until, a short time since, Mr. Wenham, a well-known member of the Microscopical Society, and who himself has made previous attempts, introduced the use of a very accurately made prism above the lenses of the object-glass. We need scarcely say that to get stereoscopic effects the microscope must be *binocular*, or capable of being used with both eyes at once. This necessitates the use of two tubes, the eye-pieces of which are required to be adjustable to the varying distances apart of different observers' eyes; but in this there is no great difficulty. The real difficulty to be overcome was in the prism and the directing of the rays transmitted from the object examined. Thus, in the binocular microscope which Mr. Wenham projected in 1853, the prism then used directed the rays from the like sides of the object to the like eyes, and the result was pseudoscopic and not stereoscopic. Moreover, the prism was made of three pieces, and all who know anything of the manipulation of optical glasses know how difficult it is to make three small perfect planes capable of lying truly flat against each other. The prism used in the present invention is of the simplest structure, requiring, however, great accuracy of shape.

The purpose of the binocular microscope, as we have said, is to give a stere

scopic vision of objects, whereby the form, distance, and position of the various parts are instantly seen, and the result is almost as striking as if the minutest object were placed in the hand as a model.

To accomplish this, the only plan yet known is the equal division of the rays after they have passed through the object-glass, so that each eye may be furnished with an appropriate one-sided view of the object; but the methods hitherto contrived to effect this not only materially injure the definition of the object-glasses, but also require expensive alterations in their adaptation, or, more frequently still, a separate stand, whereas the new arrangement contrived by Mr. Wenham is no obstacle to the ordinary use of the instrument, and the definition even of the highest powers is scarcely impaired. A small prism, mounted in a brass box (A), slides into an opening immediately above the object-glass, and reflects one-half of the rays, which form an image of the object into an additional tube (B), attached at an inclination to the ordinary body (C). One half of the rays take the usual course, with their performance unaltered, and the remainder, although reflected twice, show no loss of light or definition worthy of notice, if the prism be well made.

As the eyes of different persons are not the same distance apart, the first and most important point to be provided for is, that each eye shall have a full and clear view of the object; this is easily tried, and the necessary adjustment made, by pulling out the draw tubes of both bodies equally, which will increase the distance of the centres, and, on the contrary, when pushed down, they will suit those eyes that are nearer together.

If the prism be drawn back till stopped by its catch (F), the field of view in the inclined body is darkened, and the rays through the whole aperture of the object-glass pass into the main body as usual, neither the prism nor the additional body interfering in any way with the ordinary use of the microscope. By pressing back the springcatch (F) of the prism, it can also be withdrawn altogether for the purpose of being wiped.

The additional body to the microscope is fixed by a bayonet catch, and, if desirable, can be detached instantly, the hole in the main body being then closed by a shutter.

This is the manner in which Messrs. Smith, Beck, & Beck have adapted Mr. Wenham's invention to their exquisite microscopes, with the most perfect success.

As the binocular microscope gives a real and natural appearance, this effect is considerably increased by employing those kinds of illumination to which the naked eye is accustomed; the most suitable, consequently, being the opaque methods, where the light is thrown down upon the surface as we ordinarily see objects illuminated. For those objects that are semi-transparent, as sections of bone or teeth, diatomaceæ, living aquatic animalcules, &c., the dark field illumination, by means of the parabolic reflector, will give an equally good result; but for perfectly transparent illumination, it is much better to diffuse the light, by placing under the object various substances, such as tissue-paper, opal-glass, or a thin film of bees' wax, run between two pieces of thin glass.

The capabilities of the binocular microscope are wonderful up to a power of 400 or 500 linear, after which some difficulties occur from the distance of the back lens of the object-glass from the prism; but the principle, otherwise, holds good to the very highest powers; and it is certain that Mr. Wenham's adaptation of stereoscopic definition will produce a new era in microscopic investigations. Hitherto, with the best microscopes we gazed with one eye—an unnatural way of looking—and what was visible was on a flat plane. We had then to think about the characters displayed in the object; now, with the binocular microscopes we see at a glance the exact character of every hair, feather, dot, or ridge. A pretty microscopic object is the pollen of the mallow; under the ordinary microscope it requires familiarity in the use of the instrument to be sure whether the pollen grains are round or cup-shape; but with the new stereoscopic adaptation the little globules stand out distinct and palpable in full relief. The sack-like hyaline eggs of the common bug show at once and distinctly their pitted surfaces. If we view the wing of the dragon-fly with an ordinary instrument, we cannot see more, without focussing or much painstaking, than a flat green surface composed of squares, with a bright blue streak running between the rows. With the binocular, we see advantageously the value of the new element, *depth*, which has been introduced. We see at once what before we had to find out, that the surface was beautifully *ridged*. We look at once from the summits of the ridges down into the furrows—looking down, as it were, on long streets of roofs.

But the most beautiful objects we have yet seen are the exquisite German anatomical preparations which Messrs. Smith, Beck, & Beck are now importing, such as sections of the human finger and nail, the barbed tongue of the cat, &c., and, not the least beautiful, the injected eye of the rat, showing the inimitably delicate ciliary processes, choroid vessels, artery, and the amazingly delicate gauze-like veil of the retina.

By Mr. Wenham's praiseworthy liberality his admirable invention is thrown open to all manufacturers alike. So delicate, however, is the manipulation of the workmanship required, that had not Mr. Wenham been a first-rate mechanician, and made his instrument with his own hands, it is more than probable his discovery would have altogether been missed if he had been obliged to entrust his theoretical principles to the elaboration of even a practical manufacturer.

Messrs. Powell & Leland, and Mr. Ross, are also adopting this new principle, with such trifling modifications as may be required by the differences

in the several manners of manufacturing and arrangement of their excellent instruments. All the makers now add a rack and pinion (a) for moving up and down conjointly the two eye-pieces, a very ingenious and useful contrivance, as shown in the accompanying drawing of Messrs. Powell & Leland's binocular. Mr. Ross's binocular tubes are made solid together, and do not take off like those of Messrs. Smith, Beck, & Beck; but as by the mere drawing out of the prism the whole of the rays pass up naturally through one tube only, the one-half set of rays being only deflected when the prism is pushed in—such differences of detail are of slight practical consequence.

The vision in Messrs. Smith and Beck's instrument is perfect, and the difficulty experienced by inferior makers will be that if the prism is not truly formed, or too much light is let in upon it, a bright secondary reflection will come up beside the object, and materially interfere with a proper view of it, as we have seen in some early attempts. To prevent the possibility of this Mr. Ross's prism is double-boxed, by which means the side rays are effectually shut out, and the possibility of such a defect rendered very remote.

To entomologists and botanists the new binocular microscope will render greater service perhaps than to any other class of investigators.

The binocular microscope, invented some time since by Natchez of Paris, is theoretically more perfect in principle, but the difficulties of manufacture are such that the effect practically produced is a failure. Others have laboured in the same field, but none have had hitherto any practical results. Rumour says that Wheatstone claims the invention of binocular microscopes, but as it seems a principle with the Professor to lay claim to everything, it would be amusing to know on what foundation binocular microscopes are to be added to his catalogue of numerous other useful inventions, for some of which, however, we do not wish to withhold the praise so honestly due.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. GLADSTONE AND HIS LATIN QUANTITIES.

To the Editor of "The London Review."

SIR,—There is no question but that Mr. Walford, of Balliol, is a good scholar, and as little that he has fallen into a grave mistake about *diei*. He argues that Horace's Satires cannot be taken as authority, because he called them "*sermoni propiora*," nor Lucretius, because he abounds in archaisms. Now, in the first place, the fact of *viri infantibus*, &c., being archaisms, does not prove that *diei* is one, nor is it; and, secondly, though the metre of Horace's Satires is designedly unpolished, the language is as pure as that of Virgil or of Livy. Nor can I recollect a single archaism in the whole of the satires or Epistles.

Mr. Walford seems unaware that high authorities have contended that originally even the *e* in such words as *rei* and *fidei* was long too. He believes the assertion that *e* in *diei* is long "to be possibly a dictum of some of our second-rate modern grammar writers." I must remind him that it is expressly affirmed by Madvig, who has undeniably the very highest reputation both in England and on the continent. Also, that when "he fancies it would not have commanded the assent of a Bentley or a Porson," the fact of Bentley, in his edition of Horace, having passed *diei* over without comment is decidedly against him, while Gray, who was probably a better Latin scholar than either of them, certainly had no doubt on the subject when he wrote:—

"Mite supercilium diei."

The principle that the *e* is long is certainly taught not only in private schools, but in every public school in England; and before Mr. Walford can successfully impugn it he is bound to find some one who does agree with him in his assertion, and not merely to bring up the names of two dead men who, he fancies, would have agreed in his doubts.—Your obedient servant,

A CONSTANT READER.

PRONUNCIATION OF THE WORD "CELT."

WE have received the following in relation to our remark on the pronunciation of the word Celt in our last. We think the derivation of the word may admit of a doubt, but we cannot admit that there is any force in the arguments relating to the pronunciation. Our English writers have taken the word, not from this supposed Welsh root, but from the Latin and Greek languages, and the pronunciation of the *c*, according to the genius of our language ought to follow the rule which exists in regard to other similar words. Cicero and Caesar are spelt in Greek with a *k*.

To the Editor of "The London Review."

SIR,—Will you allow me to remind you that "Celt" is a Welsh word, indisputably so? The radix is *Cel*, a covert, or shelter; its verb, *Celu*, to cover; *Celtiad*, plural *Celtiadau*, one that abideth in a covert, an inhabitant of the wood.

Hence it is synonymous with "Gwyddel," an Irishman, from *Gwydd*, wood; also *Ysgodwyr*, or *Scot*, an inhabitant of Scotland, from the word "Coed," wood; "Ysgodiad," or *Iscotiad*, woodsmen.

The letter *c*, in Welsh, is invariably hard.

In ancient Greek and Latin authors the word is always spelt with a *k*,—as *Keltaí*, of the Greek; *Keltai*, of the Latin. See Herodotus, Caesar's Com., Tacitus, &c.—Yours,

LLWYD.

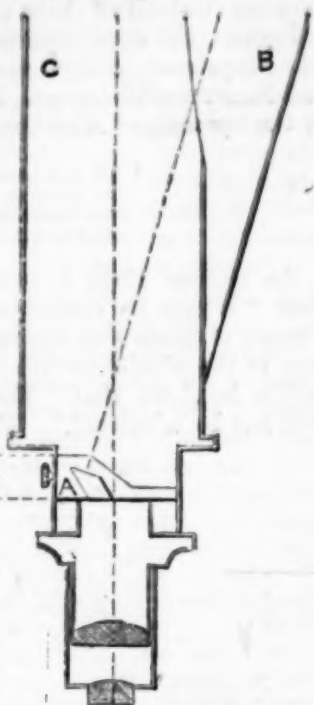


Fig. 1.—The lower part of the Wenham Binocular Microscope, as made by Messrs. Smith, Beck, & Beck.

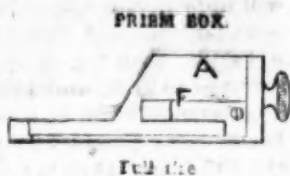


Fig. 2.—The Wenham Prism and Box, as made by Messrs. Smith, Beck, & Beck.



Fig. 3.—Wenham's Binocular Microscope, as made by Messrs. Powell & Leland.

RECENT ACTION ON THE SUN'S SURFACE.

To the Editor of "The London Review."

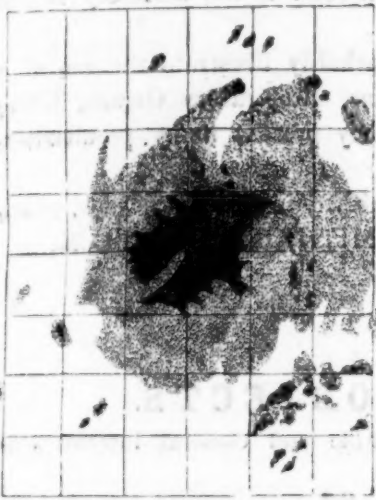
SIR,—The large solar spot, the subject of my communication of the 10th inst., was due on the eastern part of the Sun's disc, as seen from the East, on or about the 20th inst., and by the rotation of the Sun was anticipated to become a conspicuous and interesting object on the 23rd.

On the morning of the 16th a large spot was seen not far from the eastern limb of the Sun, on the northern hemisphere, occupying much the same position as the spot of the 29th of March was expected to occupy on its re-entrance on the visible hemisphere of the Sun; it had evidently entered on the visible disc, and was not the result of an outbreak as seen from the Earth.

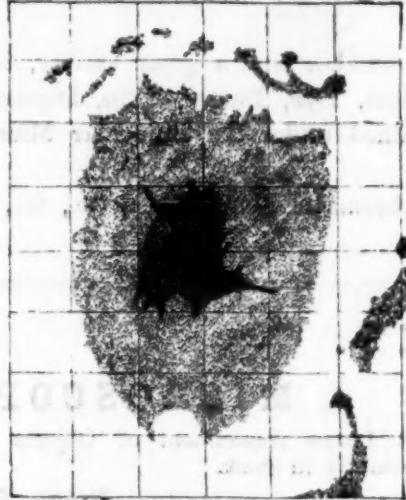
On the 17th, a little before noon, this new spot, which but slightly exceeded the spot of the 29th of March in magnitude, occupied very nearly the same position as that spot occupied on the 27th of March about noon, thus giving an interval of 21 days, which differs from the period of rotation, to bring the same part of the Sun's surface on the same part of the visible disc (nearly) by a little more than 6½ days. It therefore becomes a most interesting inquiry—Is the spot now traversing the Sun's disc the same that appeared at the latter end of March? Or has that spot closed up, and during the period of invisibility a new one broken out?

In the absence of data to resolve either of these questions it is very difficult to know what has taken place. If the new spot be really identical with the former, its proper motion or drift must have been enormous. Mr. Carrington has determined beyond a doubt the fact of the drift of the solar spot, and indicated its direction varying with locality on the solar surface, but I am not aware that so great an extent of drift has been observed before. On the other hand, the rapid closing of so large a spot, combined with as rapid an opening of one preceding or in advance of it in position, must be a very rare occurrence; at all events there can be no doubt that during the twenty-one days between March 27 and April 17 a most mighty and energetic action has taken place in or below the sun's photosphere over nearly 90° of solar longitude.

I enclose two sketches, one representing the appearance of the spot of March 29th, the description of this spot will be found in my letter of April 10th (London



Solar Spots, 1861, March 20, Noon.



Solar Spots, 1861, April 18, Noon.

Review, April 13th, 1861, p. 413); the other the appearance of the spot of April 18th. In this, as well as in the former, we have a lighter portion adjoining the nucleus; the atmosphere, however, on the 18th was not so favourable as on March 29th, so that I cannot speak with such certainty as to its nature, as on the former occasion.

There is one particular connected with both spots to which I would solicit the attention of your readers: it is the absence of a secondary nucleus. I have on former occasions observed many instances of two nuclei apparently enclosed in one penumbral boundary; but in the spot of March 29, and in that of April 18, we have but one nucleus, more or less centrally situated within the penumbra. The cloud-like covering of the spot of March 29, and the apparent separation of the penumbra into two portions, would indeed seem to indicate that the nucleus of the 29th of March was not so central as that of April 18; yet the existence of only one nucleus in each spot is very marked.

Another point of interest is the irregularity of the outlines of the nuclei in both spots. These outlines change very rapidly, indicating constant action most probably in the penumbra. M. Charconac has witnessed very remarkable and rapid changes, especially in the luminous bridges oftentimes dividing nuclei; and I have noticed on former occasions nuclei to have been in a state of constant fluctuation.

Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the spots sketched by bearing in mind that each square represents an area on the solar surface when presented directly to the eye of somewhat more than 36 millions of square miles. The spots had not arrived at a central position when sketched, so that it is probable they were greater than shown.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

April 22, 1861.

W. R. BIRT.

P.S.—This spot exhibited a fine appearance on Saturday, April 20th. On the 21st, in the forenoon, the first symptoms were observed of a division of the nucleus, a long streak of light extending nearly the whole length of the nucleus, separated for a considerable distance, a somewhat narrow portion giving the nucleus as it approached the sun's limb the appearance of a fork; the northern part was entire, the narrowest branch of the nucleus being towards the east. On the next day, the 25th, about 3 p.m., the eastern branch of the nucleus had separated from the western, the smaller portion having all the appearance of a secondary nucleus, the two nuclei being enclosed in one penumbral boundary. On the following forenoon, April 26th, from 9 to 11 a.m., the state of the atmosphere permitted a closer examination; the relative positions of the two nuclei were the same as on the 25th, the smaller secondary nucleus occupying the south-east part of the penumbra. Some of the characteristics seen and sketched on the 18th were still recognizable, although the spot was seen on the 26th very obliquely. It is somewhat remarkable, that the greater extent of the penumbra was seen on the eastern side as on the 18th, although the spot was coming into view on the 18th, and receding from view on the 26th, indicating a really greater extent of the penumbra eastward. By the rotation of the Sun, should this spot be continued by the solar action, it ought to be not far removed from its position on the Sun's disc of the 17th inst. on or about the 14th of May next. It will be interesting to observe the Eastern part of the Sun's disc, northern hemisphere (the lower part opposite the right hand, as seen in an inverting telescope), some few days before this, say from the 8th of May onward: If the spot have a motion

towards the west, it will come on the disc before the time determined by the rotation. It would appear from the last positions I was able to obtain that the spot has advanced but little, if at all, on the sun's surface. It is hardly likely, from the division of the nucleus, that it will present so fine an appearance in May. Much action has been manifested on the sun's surface eastward of the large spot; several small, and in one or two instances interesting, groups have been formed.—W. R. BIRT.

APPEARANCES OF SATURN.

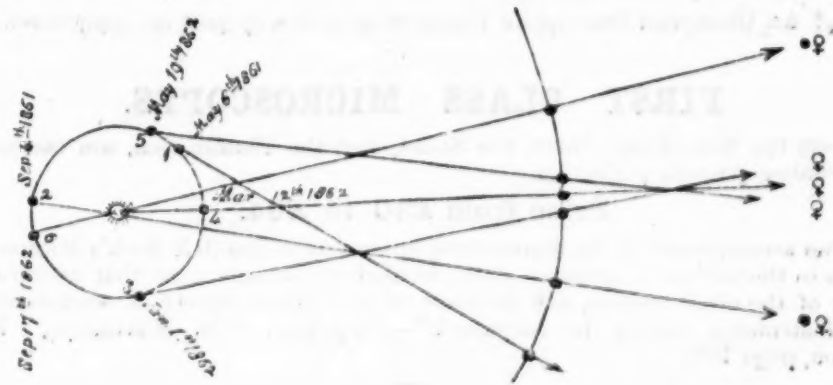
To the Editor of "The London Review."

SIR,—Although in a recent article you have treated at some length on the beautiful planet Saturn, the following additional remarks will, I think, be perused with some interest by your readers:—

Saturn near ρ Leonis has now nearly performed his compass of the northern half of the zodiac, which he entered in 1848, and we are on the eve of seeing the last of the southern surface of his wafer-like rings. His axis (of body, rings, and satellites together) lies nearly parallel to that of our earth, namely, in the direction of Algol, only 8° from our own pole-star; so that, during the next fifteen years of his journey in the southern half of the zodiac, we shall have a bird's-eye view of him from the north; and, between his conjunctions on the 4th September next, and again on the 16th September, 1862, we shall be engaged in passing the critical positions of this transfer. On the first of these conjunctions we bid farewell to the southern side of his rings, and on the next we welcome their northern aspect, and between these two dates we are twice upon the opposite side of the rings to the solar illumination, and lose them altogether, namely, first on November 23rd, when we cross to the north before the Sun, and next on May 26th of the ensuing year, when the Sun crosses to the north before the Earth, the latter having in the mean time returned to the illuminated south. At this latter disappearance the rings will vanish in darkness with a visibly oval figure twelve times as long as broad, and having a breadth of about 3½ seconds of arc.

Like all the exterior planets, Saturn pursues the Sun, retreats, and flies from him, during his complete synodic course. From a morning star he progresses 10° during 120 days, and then retreats 7° during 137 days more, while the Earth is passing between him and the Sun. In 120 days he thence progresses 10° more, while the Sun overtakes him and finally extinguishes him in the rays of sunset. A glance at the accompanying diagram will convey an impression of this oscillating motion of the line of sight in the case of such an exterior planet as Saturn.

On May the 6th, Saturn will begin to advance from ρ Leonis for 120 days, when, by the Earth's motion through 118°, and his own motion through 4°, he will appear in conjunction with the Sun at 10° from ρ Leonis. After a similar interval, he will have attained an extreme distance of 20° in advance from ρ Leonis, and begin to regrade, 8½° of this advance having arisen from his own orbital motion, and 11½ from the Earth's oscillation in its small internal orbit. The retrogression lasts for 137 days, till May 19th, 1862, and amounts to only 7°, because the planet's proper advance through 4½°, while the Earth moves through the 135° that takes her from one uniformity of movement with Saturn to the other, must be deducted from the 11½° of apparent retrogression that arises from this very motion of the Earth. After this, progression will recur until conjunction in September, 1862; and it is during the synodic revolution here figured that Saturn will pass his equinox, and present to us for nearly fifteen years to come a northern aspect of his rings.



Like Jupiter, Saturn is about 10 times as large as the earth or Venus, but his substance is ten times as light; so that while his volume is nearly 1,000 times as great, his mass is only 100 times that of the earth. His orbit exceeds that of the earth in diameter and period by 9½ and 29½ times, and has a small obliquity to ours of 2½°, which places us below his orbit from midwinter to midsummer, and above it the remainder of the year. He has the major planets' day of about ten hours (which distinguishes these from the terrestrial planets that have a twenty-four-hour day), and were the motions unperturbed, and the atmosphere not loaded with clouds, the rapid motions of his near satellites, Mimas, Enceladus, and Tethys, over the bright stars of his equator, Cetus, Orion, Hydra, Virgo, Serpens, Aquila, in a rapid succession of twenty-two hours, would serve his inhabitants as a time-piece in the heavens; but only by night, for as the brightest stars are presumed to emit very little more light than the sun, the dazzling lustre of that luminary in a humid sky must be conceived paramount, from his proximity, in all the planetary spaces.

The two rings of Saturn are placed nicely one within the other at an interval of only 1,800 miles apart, and are far thinner in comparison to their breadth than the elastic bands with which papers are commonly clasped. Their extreme width is 180,000 miles, which light overleaps in about a second of time, and their uniform thickness is not more than 250 miles. He is attended by no less than eight satellites, of which the eighth was discovered during the observation of the last disappearance of the rings in 1848. Titan, the sixth in order from the centre, is the largest, but exhibits such a diminution of brilliance on attaining the eastern side of the planet, as to lead to the conjecture that his period of rotation coincides nearly with that of revolution, whereby a more or less brilliant face is alternately exposed to our view at these epochs of his revolution in the same manner that a similar defalcation of light has been explained in the fourth satellite of Jupiter. Space forbids us to speculate upon the genesis of such a wonderful fabric as Saturn presents to us, brooding, as it were, like a night-flying bat with outstretched membranous wings amid a flight of moths that are its prey, and of which the largest keep a safe distance from him, as the major planets keep their distance from the sun; and we gladly leave to the imagination of our readers, while they observe the curious artifice of his structure, the pleasing task of picturing to themselves the Saturnian economy of weight, and heat, and shelter, and means of social inter-communication by light and speech, and winds, and liquid seas, if life exists at all upon his globe, for all these natural conditions are there in very curious phases.—A. S. H.

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